

## U.S. rejects Iran's stand

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States called on Iran Monday to renounce state-sponsored terrorism, but a senior official said there were no signs its new leaders were prepared to do so. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler rejected Iran's insistence that release of Western hostages in Lebanon was linked to a humanitarian case and is not linked to other issues. "The hostage issue is a humanitarian one and is not linked to other issues," she said, responding to comments made Monday by Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani at his first news conference since taking office in July (See page 2). "The matter of Iranian assets is pending before the Iran-United States claims tribunal... there is no connection or linkage whatsoever with the hostage issue." Asked what Iran could do to improve relations with Washington, Tutwiler replied: "For starters they could release the hostages... they could renounce state-sponsored terrorism. These would be two good places to begin." In his news conference, Rafsanjani condemned hostage-taking as an inhuman act.

# Jordan Times

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## Shevardnadze denounces violation

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze admitted Monday that the Soviet Union had violated a 1972 superpower arms control pact by building a radar complex in Siberia. In a candid foreign policy statement to parliament, Shevardnadze also denounced Moscow's nine-year involvement in Afghanistan, saying it had "violated the norms of proper behaviour." It was the most stinging criticism by a senior official of the Soviet Union's military intervention in Afghanistan, which ended with the complete withdrawal of its troops last February. More than 13,000 Soviet servicemen lost their lives there. Shevardnadze suggested the Kremlin had known for some time that the radar station at Krasnoyarsk violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty before construction was halted in October 1983. The United States announced last year that Moscow had agreed to remove parts of the station which Washington had for years denounced as a violation of the pact. The Americans had insisted the installation be dismantled before a pact on strategic weapons could be concluded.

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## Taif compromise in peril

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Christian leader and army chief Michel Aoun put his army on alert Monday and hinted he might dissolve parliament after it approved, without his consent, an accord designed to end Lebanon's civil war. The accord, approved by a special session of the Lebanese parliament held in Saudi Arabia, suffered another jolt when the two main militias of Lebanon's 1.2 million-strong Shi'ite Muslim sect also rejected the Arab-brokered plan. "The army has been put on alert to cope with all eventualities. It's a precautionary measure," said a senior official at Aoun's command centre, who spoke on condition of anonymity. All leave was cancelled and Aoun's 20,000 mainly Christian troops were ordered to stay in barracks, said the official, adding: "We're not going to war."

It's a defensive measure." News of the alert came as Aoun began wide-ranging consultations with politicians, intellectuals, industrialists, bankers and militia leaders in the Christian enclave to discuss the Taif accord. Aoun lashed out at the plan for the second time in 12 hours as an estimated 5,000 Christian supporters demonstrated in front of his residence at the shell-pocked presidential palace. They were mostly students. Aoun had ordered schools and universities in the Christian enclave to close for the day in an apparent move to bring as many demonstrators as possible to support their support for his hard-line stance. "This is the day of choice," Aoun told the chanting, clapping, banner-wielding protesters. "You have to choose between free existence or capitulation and humiliation. I am positive you will choose freedom." Meanwhile, the pro-Syrian prime minister said it would be suicide to reject the Arab League peace plan, but two other leaders described it variously as a path to hell and a silly settlement. "We don't find a substitute for what is proposed except suicide. It's not the right of anyone to take the decision of suicide against a people," said Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss. Aoun has said the plan "will lead us to hell."

Walid Jumblatt, a Druze pro-Syrian militia warden whose men battled Aoun's troops for six months earlier this year, told a news conference it was a "fake and silly settlement." The Arab plan, which provides for political reforms and a limited withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops, was approved by 58 of 63 Lebanese Christian and Muslim deputies after three weeks of negotiations in Taif. They are due to endorse it officially Tuesday in Jeddah. But Aoun told hundreds of supporters: "The fate of Lebanon is decided by Lebanese on Lebanese soil. Your fate is to defend freedom and we are committed to that fate... to total liberation and to imposing sovereignty on Lebanese soil." Aoun rejected the plan because it failed to meet his demand for the total and immediate withdrawal of the Syrian army. Diplomats said he was gambling on his control of Lebanon's Christian enclave in tandem with the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia to thwart moves to implement it. The LF, with around 12,000 militiamen under the command of Samir Geagea, had no immediate reaction. Aoun commands about 15,000 soldiers but is short of ammunition. Aoun said the deputies, who were elected before civil war erupted in 1975, "must understand that their role is finished." Under the Arab plan, the Christian-dominated political system which is seen as the root cause of the war will be reformed to increase the power of Muslims. A final decision on a Syrian troop pullout would be delayed for up to two years. Jumblatt said: "We have entered a very difficult stage... let them do what they can, we are here in the national resistance and we will remain here and hold on to our unity and arms to defend ourselves." Two Muslim deputies, saying they represented Jumblatt and Nabih Berri, head of the Shi'ite Amal militia, voted against the plan in Saudi Arabia on the grounds that it failed to ensure immediate political reforms.

## PLO seeks clarifications on Baker plan

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked Egypt to seek clarifications from Washington on a U.S. formula for Middle East peace talks, an Egyptian presidential aide said Monday. "The PLO is still holding to current peace efforts," said Mohammad Abdul Moneim, head of information at the presidency. "The PLO has not rejected (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker's five points but has requested some clarifications." Abdul Moneim told reporters after a 35-minute meeting between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and President Hosni Mubarak. "It is only normal that Egypt will carry these clarifications to both Israel and the United States and get an answer," he added. Both the PLO and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir have criticised Baker's five-point formula, but neither has so far issued an outright rejection. The secretary of state's five-point plan would organise a peace dialogue between Israel and Palestinians as a prelude to elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Earlier proposed by Israel, the elections would be to choose Palestinians for further talks on interim autonomy in the occupied territories. Arafat conferred with Mubarak for two hours Sunday night and did not talk with reporters after that meeting or Monday's session, which lasted 30 minutes. Asked about the unusual brevity of Monday's session, Abdul Moneim said: "The brevity is evidence of the convergence of views. ... Egypt does not put forward any proposals unless it gets PLO consent."

The PLO "is determined to pursue the peace process despite Israel's practices and the escalation of its repression" of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, Abdul Moneim said. The presidential aide said Egypt will relay the PLO's position to the United States and Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has spoken out against the Baker plan, mainly over two provisions. These are that Egypt would consult with the Palestinians on composition of their delegation for the peace dialogue and that subjects could be discussed other than Shamir's election proposal. Shamir regards the Baker proposal as a disguised attempt to force Israel to negotiate with the PLO. For basically the same reason, Israel's inner cabinet rejected on Oct. 6 an Egyptian dialogue proposal similar to Baker's. Abdul Moneim's portrayal of the PLO stance was at odds with the position stated publicly by PLO leaders and in a communiqué issued by the Palestine Central Council after a meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, last week. Two days before the Baghdad meeting, Yasser Arafat, a member of the PLO's 15-man Executive Committee, made remarks to reporters in Cairo that left no doubt the PLO rejects the Baker plan. "This plan is not acceptable to us at all because it is the PLO that appoints its own representatives to any negotiations," Arafat said. Neither the American nor the Egyptian proposal specifies such a role for the PLO or even mentions it, but Egypt's unwritten position is that PLO leaders would approve the delegation's membership. Last Monday, as the PLO meeting was ending, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC), noted "clearcut and overwhelming opposition to the new American move by all participants" at Baghdad. Diplomats said they regarded Arafat's request for more details on the Baker plan as a means of ensuring that the burden of responsibility for accepting or rejecting Baker's initiative lay with Israel's coalition government. "Neither side wants to be seen to saying 'no'," one Western envoy told Reuters. "This is particularly important ahead of Shamir's visit to Washington."

## Shamir says no rift with U.S.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who warned last week of a looming American-Israeli clash over Middle East peace moves, said Monday reports of a rift had been greatly exaggerated. Trying to defuse tension that emerged last week, aides to the hardline leader said they now believed Israel could bridge differences with its close U.S. ally ahead of a White House visit by Shamir in November. Shamir said a week ago Israel was not anxious to quarrel with the United States, "but if we must go to a confrontation on this issue, then we will stand firm until the end." But the prime minister told reporters in parliament on Monday: "There are certain differences of opinion, not the gravest nor the deepest, and I am convinced it is certainly possible to overcome them." "I think the disruptions in relations between Israel and the United States have been greatly exaggerated... we have had many differences in the past but we always get over them and we'll overcome these also." Shamir's comments came after Maariv, a leading Israeli daily, quoted aides to Shamir as saying he may cancel his mid-November trip to Washington if the disagreement between the two countries persists. Shamir's adviser Avi Pazner denied the visit was in doubt but confirmed in a telephone interview that the sides were divided over how to implement Israel's proposed elections in the occupied lands. "We hope this will all be straightened out before the meeting with (President George) Bush," Pazner said. Shamir Monday rejected reported claims that he was wavering on his plan. "I am obliged by every word we have written and said in the 'peace initiative'," he said. Israel's initiative calls for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinian representatives for negotiations on a limited "self-rule" for the territories. The eventual status of the occupied lands would be decided later. The U.S.-Israeli differences arise out of American efforts to arrange a meeting with Palestinians to revive the stalled election programme. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party Monday opened a fresh debate about the five-point Baker plan, saying Israel was considering it despite Shamir's objections. "Baker's five points have not been rejected or accepted. Nobody has been authorised to accept or reject them," Rabin told 500 high school students in suburban Tel Aviv, adding that Baker's proposals should be put to a cabinet vote. "Time is running short," Rabin insisted. "I understand that close to this date (of Shamir's visit), the government's position should be determined." Meanwhile, Shamir came under fire from Ariel Sharon, his rival in the hardline Likud bloc. Sharon blamed Shamir for using double talk in contacts with the Americans and statements made in Israel. Shamir said in an interview published Sunday that if Palestinians continue to be "dominated" by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), "there will be no peace and they will suffer more."

Shamir, in an interview with Spain's La Vanguardia newspaper, was quoted as saying Israel will not give up the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The occupied territories belong to us. They form part of our country," the prime minister said. "What we propose in our initiative of peace is to establish negotiations on the problem." At present, he said, "nobody in my government is thinking of a withdrawal." Shamir reiterated Israel's refusal to speak with the PLO. He said Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak cannot act without "accepting what the PLO tells him. And this is what we do not want." Shamir said Israel wants "peace... through negotiation," but said the process could take years. La Vanguardia said the interview took place last week.

## California rescue suspended; focus shifts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A flotilla of ferries and extra subways were mobilised to ease rain-soaked commuter gridlock Monday, and rescuers halted indefinitely the search for survivors at an earthquake-flattened freeway when the rubble became too unstable. Traffic planners took extraordinary precautions to avoid rush-hour paralysis on the first full weekday since last Tuesday's devastating earthquake. Commuters were urged to take public transportation, carpool or come in earlier or later than normal. Fourteen ferries were added to ease commuting disrupted by damaged bridges, and extra police and two trucks were placed in choke zones in case something went wrong. About three million people commute on a typical weekday in the nine-county region. Authorities warned that two million of them could be disrupted in a nightmarish obstacle course. Commuting was further complicated by bad weather. Gale warnings were posted early Monday, rain was heavy in some areas and one ferry was turned back because of rough waters on the San Francisco Bay, authorities said. Highway 101 was a sea of lights shortly after 5 a.m. (1200 GMT), the Golden Gate Bridge was bumper-to-bumper and some parking lots at subway stations were full. Winds were gusting at more than 65 kilometres per hour, a few power outages were reported and more than 2.5 centimetres of rain was expected, officials said. National weather service forecaster John Plankton said a storm that came in from the Gulf of Alaska was the "biggest this year." Engineers feared more rain could cause additional landslides in the mountains south of San Francisco and perhaps even rock already shaky sections of elevated freeway. On Sunday, 150 residents of a housing project just three metres from collapsed Interstate 880 in Oakland joined thousands of homeless because of fears that more of the highway could fall. Back Heim, the beefy dockworker plucked from under the Interstate debris Saturday, after hope had been abandoned of finding anyone alive, showed slight improvement Sunday but was fighting for his life. Damage estimates from Tuesday's earthquake topped \$7 billion, eclipsing Hurricane Hugo as the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history, according to the Independent Insurance Agents of America. The confirmed death toll was 59, including 38 pulled from I-880. Dozens remained missing and thousands were injured. "We know there are more victims, more cars. But we don't know how many," said California Highway Patrol Captain Mike Garver, speaking about I-880. The unstable rains forced authorities to halt rescue work late Sunday, and there was no esti-

mate of when work could resume. "It's kind of minute by minute," said California Department of Transportation spokesman Kyle Nelson. The first phase of the bay bridge repair started when workers saved a 15-metre collapsed section in half and lowered it by crane Sunday to a barge on wind-whipped San Francisco Bay. It was to be towed to a dock for inspection and repair. Without the bay bridge, the main link between San Francisco and Oakland, 65,000 rush-hour motorists were forced to seek other ways to work. Daily, 260,000 cars use the bridge, the most crucial of the region's earthquake-disrupted roadways. Repairs will take at least four weeks. "You just can't squeeze all the traffic out of other bridges. There just isn't enough room," said Joel Markowitz, a traffic planner with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "We're going to have a crisis until people adapt a little."

## Siberian miners strike

MOSCOW (R) — Up to 28,000 Siberian miners defied an official strike ban and stopped work for two hours Monday, raising the possibility of fresh industrial unrest ahead of the harsh Russian winter. TASS said miners in the city of Mezhdurechensk downed tools because management failed to implement pledges ending a wave of strikes which paralysed the Soviet coal industry in July. The official news agency said the miners were joined by other local workers, including railwaymen. Miners in nearby Anzhero-Sudzhensk held sympathy meetings but did not strike. The stoppage underlined the government's inability to enforce this month's Supreme Soviet (parliament) ban on strikes in energy, transport and other essential sectors. The stoppage, the first since the October 3 parliamentary vote, also coincided with apparent signs of potential industrial unrest elsewhere in the country. Kazakh deputy Olzhas Sulaimenov warned parliament that workers in his Central Asian republic might strike to back demands for an end to nuclear testing at the desert site near the city of Semipalatinsk. An unofficial pressure group within the Soviet army also announced Monday that it was planning to form a trade union to press for improvements in living conditions. TASS said the decision to stop work in Mezhdurechensk was taken by a strike committee several days ago. "It was motivated by the non-fulfilment of a series of points agreed with the government commission after the July strike," TASS said. "From 15,000 to 20,000 people took part in the strike, according to preliminary estimates." The morning stoppage went ahead despite a television appeal to call it off by the local Communist Party leader Sunday night.



Following orders from Israeli soldiers, an Arab fork-lift operator blocks off an alley in central Nablus from which petrol bombs were hurled at an Israeli army patrol.

## Palestinian shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed Mohammad Abu Libde, 19, and wounded at least six others Monday, reports said. The Israeli army confirmed that the youth was killed during a "military activity" at the West Bank refugee camp of Tulkarem and said it was checking further. The death brought to 601 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire in the 22-month uprising. Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, wants police to bar ultra-nationalist Jews from praying near the site of what they see as an Israeli temple on the Haram Al Sharif, officials said. Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine of Islam, stands on the site, where Israelis say temples were destroyed in 586 B.C. and 70 A.D. Jewish worship there is banned to prevent conflict between Jews and Muslims and a group of zealots, the "Temple Mount faithful," now prays outside a gate to the site. Officials told Reuters Kollek made his demand in a letter to police commissioner David Krauss after Palestinian students protested last week at an attempt by the group to lay a symbolic "cornerstone" to "rebuild" the temple. The "Temple Mount faithful" say that demolishing Al Aqsa Mosque and building the temple will hasten the arrival of the messiah. Kollek's spokesman, Menachem Raboy, said the group's activities "escalate tension and damage the tender... relations between various segments of Jerusalem's population."

## Dramatic shakeup predicted in E. Berlin

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — West Germany's Bild newspaper Monday predicted a dramatic shake-up of East German Communist rulers that would sweep out five ageing hardliners and bring in former spy-master Markus Wolf as security chief. Bild, which accurately forecast when Erich Honecker would quit, also quoted top party sources as saying the veteran leader fought to the end to keep power until the central committee coldly accepted his resignation Oct. 18. The policy-making committee would meet again between Nov. 10 and 15 and remove five more veterans from the ruling politburo under new party chief Egon Krenz, the newspaper quoted sources in East Berlin as saying. It said Krenz's responsibility for internal and external security would go to Wolf, 66, who retired as espionage chief in 1987 after 29 years of placing moles at the highest reaches of the West German government. Wolf is not a member of the central committee but ranks in the West as reform-minded. He spoke out in a West German newspaper interview in September for public debate about change at a time when orthodox leaders were still hunkering at reform. Among the five to go would be Prime Minister Willy Stoph, 75, ideology chief Kurt Hager, 77, and Minister for Staff Security Erich Mielke, at 81 the oldest man in the politburo. Erich Mueckenberger, chairman of the party's control commission, and Alfred Neumann, one of two deputy prime ministers, would also go, Bild said. Both are aged 79. Exodus picks up The flow of East German across Hungary's open border to the West increased at the weekend despite promises of change by East German leaders. Hungary's official MTI news agency quoted a Hungarian border official Monday as saying 3,669 East Germans had crossed into Austria over the past three days. "The number of GDR (East Germany) citizens now entering Austria is even higher than at the beginning of the exodus," the official said. In West Germany, police in the southern city of Munich said 1,185 East Germans had arrived by car or bus in the past 24 hours after crossing Hungary's border with Austria. Some 10,000 East Germans fled when Budapest threw open its frontier on Sept. 11, since when the number of East Germans crossing the border each day has averaged around 500. Trade union formed Several hundred workers at an electronics plant outside East Berlin have formed East Germany's first independent trade union, a spokesman said Monday. Rolf Boerger said the union's platform includes a demand for the right to strike, and he called on all 6,000 employees of the Wilhelm Ploek factory in Teltow to join the new labour movement. The factory is named after East Germany's first president. He said the union, named "Reform," declared solidarity with newly founded opposition political groups in East Germany and called for a thorough restructuring of the Communist state's economy. Boerger's statement was distributed to Western news media on Monday in West Berlin. The state-run ADN news agency made no immediate mention of the declaration by the electronics workers, and the new leadership's attitude towards the Reform trade group was not immediately made clear. Pro-democracy activists were to hold another rally Monday night in Leipzig to press the new leadership for change as the official news media printed several articles describing reform talks. Lutheran church sources said the demonstration was planned to keep up pressure on the Communist Party. Pro-reform marches have taken place in several East German cities since Krenz was named to succeed Honecker. Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Leipzig in early October in the biggest display of unrest since a 1953 uprising that was put down by Soviet tanks.



Egon Krenz



# Arab papers welcome Lebanon pact, warn of Israeli reaction

NICOSIA (R) — Arab commentators Monday welcomed political reforms agreed by Lebanon's Christian and Muslim parliamentarians but warned Israel might try to block implementation.

Fifty-eight members of parliament, Lebanon's only remaining constitutional body after 14 years of civil war, Sunday agreed to an Arab League peace plan that would give the Muslim majority a bigger say in the Christian-dominated political system.

"The long years of crisis in Lebanon have created confirmed beliefs amongst all rival parties that Israel has and will continue to be one of the main parties in the bloody conflict in Lebanon," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said in an editorial.

"Israel will not be short of means to interfere with the aim of obstructing and is capable of complicating reconciliation through its agents who are cooperating with it," the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) quoted the paper as saying.

Al Fajr newspaper published in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates warned the pact will not satisfy the "only beneficiary of continued Lebanese division," Israel.

The Beirut-based Al Bayan said Lebanon's militia leaders should drop "narrow-minded calculations that are based on the language of bullets and explosions."

Saudi Arabia's newspaper Al Madina said the approval by the Lebanese deputies represented a "legitimate way to build a constructive political life based on understanding and respect."

Saudi newspaper Al Yom said the success of Saudi diplomacy in preparing the agreement that came after 23 days of tough negotiations in the Saudi Arabian hill resort of Taif proved that "only the Arabs are capable of resolving their differences."

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"Putting the charter for national reconciliation into effect ... should not divert the attention of the Lebanese and all Arabs from Israel's destructive intentions and Zionist schemes in Lebanon," the paper said.

The commentary made no mention of army chief General Michel Aoun, who rejected the plan late Sunday.

But Syria's official press maintained its attack against Aoun, who is often described as an agent of Israel and Iraq.

"The confirmed winner of the Taif meeting is Lebanon. The confirmed loser is Aoun and Israel and all those implementing Israeli plans in Lebanon," the official daily Tishrin said.

"We have no information about the situation of hostages in Lebanon and see no reason to get ourselves involved," he said in his first news conference since being elected president in July.

"And if we are to act on this some day, it will be in tandem with efforts to free our hostages in Lebanon, the Lebanese (hostages) in Israel and other hostages," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

Pressed for his views on kidnapping as a political act, Rafsanjani said: "Hostage-taking is an inhuman act. It has no political benefits and is wrong, whoever does it."

But he said the hostage-takers in Lebanon were reacting to oppression by Israel and the United States.

"These small groups are sometimes forced to take unwise action," Rafsanjani said. "They are like kids who suddenly burst into crying when their patience is over. You must find out who makes them cry."

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# GCC wants Tehran to act on better ties

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) want Iran to match its words with practical action to improve relations, particularly with Saudi Arabia, a senior GCC official said Monday.

"Iran has improved relations with most GCC countries but there is still a weak point in its approach, which is its dispute with the Saudis," the GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs said in an interview.

GCC member Oman was mediating in an attempt to solve the dispute, said Ibn Hashil Al Maskari said during a visit to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"If Iran wants to develop good relations with the GCC, it should do so with all member states. We do not want any distinction," said Maskari.

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In 1987, hundreds of Iranian pilgrims died in clashes with Saudi security men during demonstrations in the holy city of Mecca.

This summer, Tehran increased a campaign of rhetoric against the Saudis, although this has since been toned down under new Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Iranian campaigns against Saudi Arabia are undoubtedly affecting development of ties with other GCC members," said Maskari.

Maskari said the effects of the eight-year war and the lack of a stable peace had held back full development of the GCC but he was more optimistic about the future.

"The war had a material and psychological impact on the GCC. It sapped more than 60 per cent of our efforts," he said.

But Maskari said he hoped United Nations envoy Jan Eliasson would soon try to break the deadlock in U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq. Eliasson had full GCC support, he said.

"We can see an Iraqi insistence on peace, coupled with good Iranian statements, especially from Rafsanjani. I personally smile out a fresh war," he said.

The talks had been arranged through Kuwaiti mediation, he said.

"We said to the Americans that we hope the reasons that led to the breaking of relations in 1968 would not be repeated. We also called for non-intervention, etc. But the talks are going on in a normal way," said No'man.

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# MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

## Vanuatu formally recognises PLO

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (R) — Vanuatu has become the first South Pacific island state to formally recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), government officials in Port Vila said Monday. PLO's Australia-based representative Ali Kazak presented his credentials as ambassador of the "state of Palestine" to Vanuatu President Frederick Timakata at the weekend, they said. In a statement issued in Canberra, Kazak said Timakata had expressed the hope for an international peace conference to solve the problem of a Palestinian homeland. Vanuatu, formerly ruled jointly by Britain and France, follows what Prime Minister Walter Lini describes as an active, independent, Non-Aligned foreign policy. Port Vila, which maintains close links with Australia and Western countries, has set up formal ties with the Soviet Union, East Germany, Cuba and Vietnam in recent years.

## Egypt jails 2 militants

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has jailed two Muslim militants who killed a man for ignoring their demand that he switch his radio from music to readings of the Koran. After Bakr and Kamal Sayed Ali were sentenced to 10 years' hard labour for murdering a singer in the Cairo district of Al Sahel in December 1987. He had been listening to a broadcast of songs by Umm Kalthoum, a singer who died 14 years ago but whose classical recordings are still popular in the Arab World. The court also acquitted eight Muslim fundamentalists of complicity in the murder. Two other defendants were killed in a clash with security forces when they tried to evade arrest in 1988.

## Amal seizes 3 SLA militiamen

TYRE (AP) — The Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said Monday it captured three fighters of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Israel's self-designated border "security zones." Amal produced the trio at a news conference in the southern port city of Tyre, which is outside the Israeli zone and the area policed by United Nations peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon. Amal said its gunmen were on a reconnaissance mission inside the zone when they came across the SLA militiamen. The three, all Shi'ites from the border village of Aita Al Shaab, identified themselves as Youssef Mohammad Rida, 18; Youssef Ali Saad, 21, and Nabil Moustafa Dakdouk, 19. They said they were on leave and were on a hunting trip in the Salhani Valley, in the border enclave, when they were ambushed by Amal gunmen who found their SLA identity cards. They said they were recruited three months ago at the SLA barracks in Marjayoun, the main town in the security zone.

## Libya to mourn for victims of colonialism

NICOSIA (R) — Libya will cut itself off the rest of the world next Thursday to hold a day of mourning for victims of Italian colonialism, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) announced Sunday. All international transport and communications systems will be halted to mark "the painful memory of Italian colonialism on Libya and its people," JANA quoted sources in the General People's Committee for Communication and Navigation as saying. Italy invaded Libya, then part of the Ottoman Empire, in October 1911 and ruled the country until its defeat in World War II. Libya became independent in 1951 under King Idris, who was overthrown in 1969 by revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi.

# Israel asks U.S. Jews to oppose 'genocide' motion

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel has asked influential American Jewish organisations to lobby against a Senate resolution to proclaim a national day of remembrance for the victims of the Armenian "genocide" early this century, Jewish sources said.

Sources at two Jewish groups, who asked that neither they nor their organisations be identified, said the request had placed them in a quandary since the natural inclination of American Jewry had been to support the resolution.

"As a people which was itself a victim of genocide, we feel natural sympathy for the Armenians. But Israel wants to foster its relations with Turkey, which it views with great importance," said one source.

One major Jewish-American organisation prepared a press release supporting the resolution but "it was killed at the last minute before being issued," one of the sources said.

# Rafsanjani says U.S. must show goodwill before hostage action

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday condemned hostage-taking as an "inhuman act" but reiterated Tehran would help release Americans held in Lebanon only after Washington proved its goodwill.

Rafsanjani said Iran would use its influence to free U.S. hostages if the United States unblocked Iranian assets frozen since 1979 or helped locate Iranians who Tehran says were abducted by Falangists in Lebanon in 1982.

"The reign of terror has been narrowed. So, with every passing year it is in favour of Turkey," said Hayri Kozakcioglu, governor supreme responsible for the 11 hardest hit provinces.

Fighting in sparsely-populated mountains began in mid-1984. Some 40,000 Turkish troops are

now pitted against an estimated 2,250 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in an area about half the size of Italy.

The rebels — often called "shepherds by day and killers by night" — want an independent homeland. Some eight million Kurds live in Turkey, another nine million in neighbouring areas of Iraq and north west Iran.

Since March, an average of 70 people, including rebels and civilians, have been killed each month, more than twice the previous level of bloodshed. The

conflict has taken almost 2,000 lives in five years.

Officials say PKK recruits are mostly youths kidnapped and taken for training outside Turkey, but they acknowledge that rebel numbers have increased four-fold in three years.

"We say the PKK is not a liberation movement. The PKK is an instrument of enemy forces who do not want Turkey to develop, particularly this region," Kozakcioglu told foreign reporters in the regional city of Diyarbakir at the weekend.

# Turkey containing Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish commanders say they are containing a Kurdish insurgency near their eastern and southern borders. But after the costliest year so far for both sides the battle is a long way from being over.

"The reign of terror has been narrowed. So, with every passing year it is in favour of Turkey," said Hayri Kozakcioglu, governor supreme responsible for the 11 hardest hit provinces.

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"We say the PKK is not a liberation movement. The PKK is an instrument of enemy forces who do not want Turkey to develop, particularly this region," Kozakcioglu told foreign reporters in the regional city of Diyarbakir at the weekend.

# South Yemen, U.S. discuss renewal of ties

KUWAIT (R) — The prime minister of South Yemen, the Arab World's only Marxist-ruled state, said Monday his country had begun negotiations with the United States to restore diplomatic relations broken off 20 years ago.

"Discussions between democratic Yemen and the United States began around 10 days ago and are taking a good and normal course," Yassem Said No'man told a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to Kuwait.

In the last few months South Yemen's leaders, who took power in a coup in 1986, have been introducing reforms to liberalise the political system and economy

of one of the world's poorest countries.

No'man said talks were being held in New York between the head of the Yemeni delegation to the United Nations, Abdullah Al Ashtal, and America's U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. The next round was due to start in two weeks.

The talks had been arranged through Kuwaiti mediation, he said.

"We said to the Americans that we hope the reasons that led to the breaking of relations in 1968 would not be repeated. We also called for non-intervention, etc. But the talks are going on in a normal way," said No'man.

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**Jordan Times'**

**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:05	Sea Hunt
18:05	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
19:10	Agricultural programme
19:15	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:10	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	News summary in Arabic

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Anjouard 'Him En Pochon
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Fred Daniel's Magic Show
21:10	Supernature
22:00	News in English
22:30	Hunter

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swefeh Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 62836.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
Do la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternant Church Tel. 62266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 623265.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811293.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair with temperatures around the annual average and winds will be predominantly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	Min./max. temp.
Aqaba	13/26
Deserts	19/31
Jordan Valley	10/27
	20/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE

### NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Taycor Sa'di	77636
Dr. Jamil Marag	77604
Dr. Anjad Nawas	78186
Dr. Medard Tannous	88480
First pharmacy	84912
Ferdous pharmacy	77836
Al Amana pharmacy	63705
Natroukhi pharmacy	62367
Al Salim pharmacy	63670
Yacoubi pharmacy	64495
Shamshat pharmacy	63760

IBRD:	
Dr. Anjad Obaidat	(-)

Al Shabara's pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Abdul Latif Sharbini	(-)
Khash pharmacy	965417

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	84340
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	609800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	767111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Orchestra Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repeater	623101
Abdull Telephone Repeater	661101
Jordan Television	775111

Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636361
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	06-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381932
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	6442846
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn.	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahla, J. Amman	636140
Pediatric, Sharmat	6647174
Sharmat Hospital	659131
University Hospital	843945
Al-Minister Hospital	6672219
The Islamic, Abdull	66612737
Al-ANI, Abdull	6641646
Al-ANI, Al-Minister	7770103
Al-Sabir, J. Amn.	7751126
Acute, Marja	6616175
Queen Alia Hospital	6324050
Amal Hospital	674135

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa Maternity Hospital	(09)791071
Im San Hospital	(09)667632
IBRD:	

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)772275
Im Al Nastes Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)330405, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:05	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:10	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:30	Jeddah (RJ)
06:45	Aqaba (RJ)
06:50	Cairo (RJ)
06:55	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
07:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:05	Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
07:10	Montreal, New York (RJ)
07:15	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
19:55	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:20	Kuwait (KU)
18:25	Cairo (MS)
18:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:35	Riyadh (SV)
18:45	Rome (AZ)
19:15	Dubai (EK)
19:20	Beirut (ME)
19:35	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:55	London (BA)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
07:05	Tripoli (RJ)
07:45	Vizna, Chicago (RJ)
11:05	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:05	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00	Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:30	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
15:40	Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
16:20	Cairo (RJ)
16:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
17:10	Larnaca (RJ)
17:15	Jeddah (RJ)
17:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:25	Kuwait (KU)
12:00	Cairo (MS)
12:05	Muscat (RJ)
12:10	Dubai (AZ)

20:15	Dubai (EK)
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### MARKET PRICES

Upper tower price in \$/kg	
Apple (golden)	420/380
Apple (red)	530/480
Banana	400/400
Banana (Mashann)	400/400
Bean	380/350
Cabbage	200/140
Carrot	350/300
Cauliflower	200/200
Corn	220/200
Cucumbers (large)	200/150
Cucumbers (small)	420/360
Eggplant	220/180
Garlic	900/800
Grapefruit	240/200
Grapes	420/380
Grape (black)	420/380
Onion	400/350
Lemon	220/180
Mallow	160/120
Minister (large)	200/150
Minister (small)	320/280
Okra	680/570
Onion	420/380
Onion (dry)	300/220
Orange	450/360
Pepper (hot)	200/160
Pepper (sweet)	200/160
Tomato	380/320
Potato	300/250
Sage	650/550
Spinach	300/250
Strawberry	220/170
Watermelon	200/150



## Society on History of Science chalks projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society on the History of Science (JSHS) held its first constituent assembly meeting here Monday and elected Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, as board chairman and other officials, including deputy chairman, treasurer and members, and formed two standing committees on public relations and cultural affairs.

A statement issued by the JSHS, which was approved by the minister of interior, said the society aims at focusing Jordanian public attention on the history of sciences and promoting research work in science and scientific heritage. The society will dedicate its efforts to projecting the Arab Nation's contributions to world science over the ages and to bolstering ties between Arab and international organisations concerned with scientific fields. This will be done, according to the statement, through seminars, lectures and conferences.

The statement said that the society would publish material related to the history of science and take part in international conferences, organise scientific trips, establish a specialised library and museum, conduct studies.

The statement said that the society would commence activities early next year.

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### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**CONDOLENCES TO SABBAHS:** His Majesty King Hussein has delegated Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to convey condolences to Al Sabbah family on the death of the mother of Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah. (Petra)

**SCOUT TEAM IN CAIRO:** A Jordanian scout delegation arrived in Cairo Monday to take part in celebrations marking the inauguration of an international Arab scouts centre Tuesday. The delegation is led by Asem Ghosheh, secretary general of the Ministry of Youth and who represents Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Jordanian Scout and Girl Guide Association.

**IRAQI EXHIBITION:** An Iraqi book exhibition was opened here Monday by Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail. On display for 15 days are 60,000 books dealing with science, social studies, literary work and history.

**UNRWA-UDO MEETING:** A delegation of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees in the occupied Arab territories visited the Urban Development Department (UDD) and was briefed on the development of residential areas in Amman and Aqaba. The delegation was also briefed on the department's role in community development. (Petra)

## Arab countries urged to adopt education reforms

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab League-sponsored meeting has urged concerned educational authorities in the Arab World to undertake steps conducive to the development of education and training at all levels.

The meeting, which was attended by experts in formal and informal education and educational management, urged the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) to sponsor arabisation of educational terms, specially those used by international organisations for the benefit of Arab students and Arab organisations.

The meeting, which concluded here Monday, also recommended the issuance of an Arab lexicon containing all basic and essential educational terms.

The recommendations stressed the importance of planning formal and informal education and for complete coordination among various concerned authorities in the Arab World.

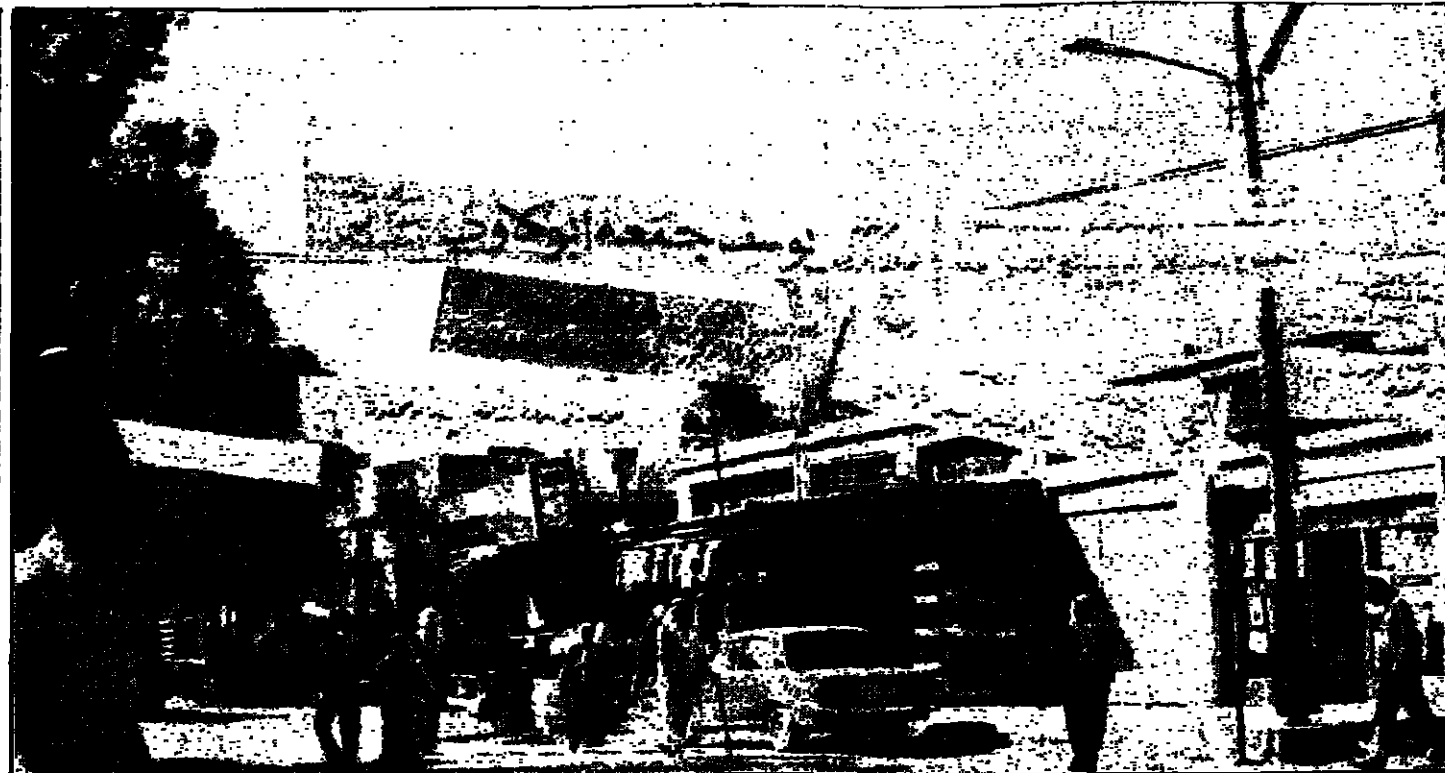
The participants emphasised

the importance of statistics for planning and decision-making in the field of education and urged concerned authorities to give due attention to those employed in the regular and formal educational sector.

The recommendations included a call on the Arab League and Arab governments to give proper attention to developing educational techniques and increase the use of documentary films, television programmes and other visual aids. They called for greater attention for vocational training and adult education.

Furthermore, the participants urged the Arab League and Arab countries to boost educational programmes beamed to the occupied Arab territories so as to counter Israel's attempts at distorting the Arabic language and Arab history and culture.

The participants proposed the formation of a special national corporation to supervise planning of programmes on informal education and to establish a teachers training centre



Election scene in Zarqa

## No contests filed over candidates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The period specified by the authorities for citizens' contests over candidates for the Nov. 8 elections ended Monday without any contest of any of the candidates officially announced by the various governments.

The number of candidates for the Nov. 8 elections is now 652 out of the original 662; seven were rejected for legal reasons and three others dropped out.

The number of voter cards distributed in Amman governorate reached 193,578, 55,47 per cent of the total of 348,967 registered voters.

A split up of the total showed that 32,156 voters collected their cards in the First District (total 65,342); in the Second District: 28,312 out of 73,435; in the Third

District: 33,487 out of 60,824; in the Fourth District: 27,230 out of 35,788; in the Fifth District: 32,049 out of 60,289; in the Sixth District: 25,394 out of 35,134; and in the bedouins of Central Jordan District: 14,950 out of 18,155.

In Jerash District, a total of 27,755 voter cards were collected out of a total of 31,368 — an encouraging 88.4 per cent of the total registered voters.

In Ajloun, where a total of 36,208 voters are registered, 29,456 cards were handed out; 82 per cent. In the Jordan Valley District, 23,150 cards were distributed out of 25,500; an excellent 95 per cent.

In Kerak, 63,563 cards out of 67,562 were delivered; 95,451 out

of 117,896 in Zarqa Governorate Tafleeh governorate, with a total of 21,908 voters, about 18,500 cards were distributed.

Two hundred and twenty-seven voting committees and 49 counting committees were assigned for the election headquarters set at the Arab Model School at Yarmouk University. "It has adequate rooms for the purpose," said Irbid Governor Jawdat Shbouh, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Shbouh is to meet Tuesday with all candidates from the governorate's districts to discuss the procedures and instructions that regulate the election process.

Kerak Governor Ismail Dhe-mat announced Saleh Al Majali

had withdrawn his nomination, bringing the number of candidates to 65 seeking the nine seats in the district.

While in Zarqa, 86 voting centres were allocated with 235 ballot boxes distributed over 12 election districts.

Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin visited the voting centres in the Sixth District accompanied by Madaba District Governor Musleh Tarawneh and inspected the distribution of voting cards and the procedures followed in the process.

Thirty-three voting centres with 75 ballot boxes were allocated for the Sixth District while 29 voting centres were assigned in Al Qasr District, which was also visited by its district Governor Khaled Al Khreishah.

## Handicraft sales quadruple

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jerash Ladies' Benevolent Society which produces woven and embroidered handicrafts says sales have quadrupled this year over last year. Sales of Bani Hamida bedouin carpets have more than doubled according to Ghada Habash, weaving manager. From gift shops to home-based retailers sales of high quality handicrafts have doubled.

Activity in the marketplace benefits the women who labour, often at home, to produce the products by hand. Habash reports that 496 of the 700 women over age 15 in Bani Hamida are currently employed in the rug weaving business. Expansion is likely, she says, as supervisors gain experience in managing quality control. The market demand is greater than the supply, and most of the women want to produce more carpets than they are now allocated. At the Jerash Ladies' Benevolent Society, the workforce has doubled in the past half year while wages have been increased across the board by 30 per cent.

A number of factors have come together to create a burgeoning business in handicrafts and a source of income, skill development, and common interest for women. Perhaps the most exciting of these has been an expansion in the variety of beautiful designs being produced. The Jerash Ladies' Benevolent Society, for example, is now producing pillows, shawls, and table runners using the lacy chevron style (vee shaped) Jordanian stitch which had typified an almost forgotten traditional embroidery stitch from the Hauran plain of southern Syria, northern Palestine, and north Jordan. Catholic Relief Services staff member, Rula Qumei, established the stitch at the Jerash society in 1987 after studying samples of it in the embroidery collection of Widat Kawa. According to Kawa, the stitch is called "rakmy" or "having holes," and women created many patterns with it including rice, soap, birds, ladders, stairs, eggs, and ears of corn.

According to David O'Connor, National Handicrafts Centre spokesperson, the Jerash society is the only producer to incorporate this and other north Jordan stitches — satin stitch (manjule) and lace stitch (haruz) — into garments and accessories. The motifs of these stitches have been carried over into the patterns of the society's brightly coloured woven rugs.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation is closely involved in the national project.

The National Handicrafts Centre, under a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has assisted the society in expanding its product line.



## Ministry destroys 12,000 tonnes of bad food

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply inspectors last month seized and destroyed 12,000 tonnes of foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption, a ministry official said Monday.

Other unspecified quantities of foodstuffs were also seized by inspectors, working in cooperation with local council and the ministry, the official was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"It has been noticed lately that foodstuffs unfit for human consumption are being increasing discovered by the authorities," the official, who was not named, was quoted as saying by Petra. He attributed the increase in the case of "unorthodox means of storage" of food products.

The official said many citizens and merchants were in the habit of hoarding large quantities of goods and food supplies without justification. Lack of proper knowledge of storage methods and ways to keep foodstuffs in good condition results in the wastage of a good part of such goods and foodstuffs, the official added.

He appealed to the citizens to store limited quantities of food supplies sufficient for short-term needs and assured the public that the Ministry of Supply had enough quantities of basic food commodities in its warehouses.

## ACC to nominate Jordan to ILO

CAIRO (Petra) — Ministers of Labour from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have agreed to nominate Jordan to the board of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and decided to pursue efforts designed to coordinate Arab countries stands at international meetings.

Labour Minister Jamal Al Bedour, head of Jordan's delegation to the meeting, said the ACC ministers of labour decided that priority should be given to their own workers in employment opportunities over other workers from the Arab World.

Agreement was reached that effective measures should be taken that would stem the employment of foreign workers and that an ACC information centre should be established to provide labour data collected by ministers of labour so that coordination could be maintained in labour-related affairs.

The ministers, Bedour said, decided to hold their next meeting in Amman in November 1990. The Amman meeting will review

reports by committees set up at the Cairo meeting. These committees, the minister said, will hold meetings starting Nov. 4 in Amman and will prepare initial reports for an ACC ministerial council meeting to be held early next year.

Bedour added the ministers reviewed arrangement for holding a general Arab labour conference by the end of March and agreed on a set of principles to coordinate the ACC countries position at that meeting.

Dajani to ACC post

Ali Dajani, advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, has been nominated to the post of secretary general of the Higher Council of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the ACC countries. The higher council's decision has been taken in appreciation for Dajani's efforts to attain the highest level of coordination and cooperation among the ACC chambers of industry.

## SOS Village plans parade to mark King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The SOS Children's Village in the town of Tareq near Amman will launch its first activity next month with an open festive march from the village to the Marriott Hotel in Amman to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary, Nov. 14.

The event will involve the village children who are cared for by foster mothers at nine different homes in the village established by the Austria-based International Children's Villages Association SOS, organisers said Monday.

The children will first move a huge stone ball from the entrance of the village in a symbol of unity and a sign of their cooperation and friendship before the march will proceed towards Amman.

The march according to the organisers, will follow the Ain Ghazal road past the Physical Education College and the Jamal Abdul Nasser Square to the hotel. The children would carry banners, posters and balloons along the way and present a

performance at the hotel. The SOS village administration said it would organise a birthday card-design contest for Jordanian children aged six to 13 addressed to King Hussein on his birthday. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in the contest and all the cards will be posted on a large board in the hotel lobby.

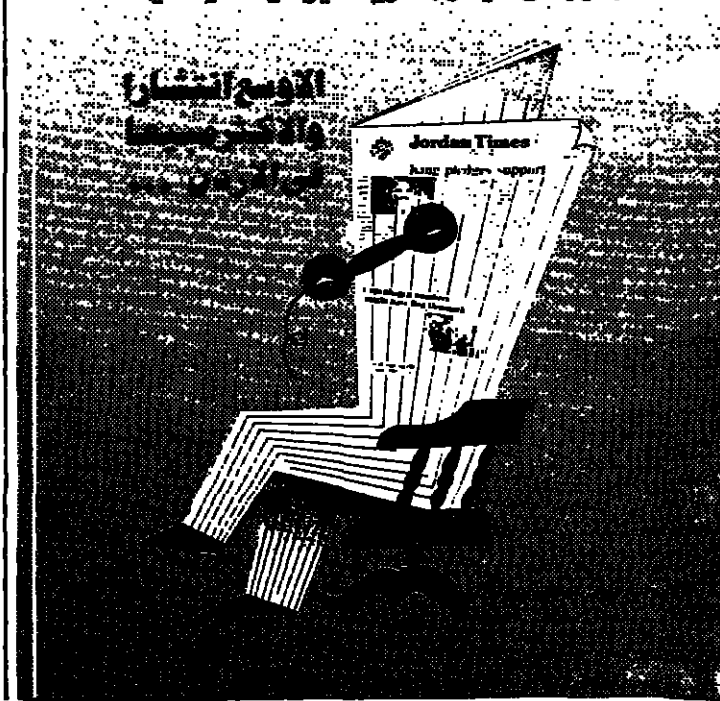
The SOS Children's Village, established in May 1987, is situated on 33 dunums of land west of Amman and comprises nine family homes, a bakery, a supermarket, staff and guest quarters and a kindergarten, which opened its doors in 1986.

The village houses nearly 100 orphans and abandoned children and provides care through the help of women with household experience serving as "mothers."

The SOS Children's Village, set up by the Austria-based organisation is being supported through donations and contributions from Jordanian private and local organisations.

## Jordan Times

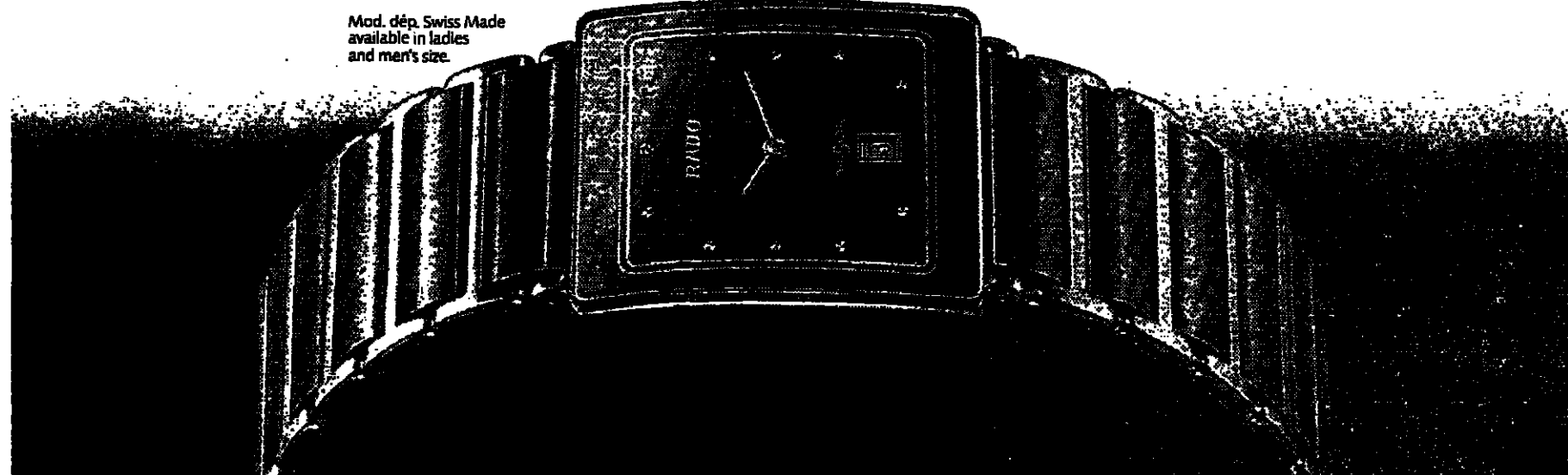
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## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Amman Khamisneh' at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qudous displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Bataineh at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian amateur artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Scholars and Revolution" at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Image of European Woman in Arabic Literature" by Prof. Dr. Rostant Wojtowysch-Wieland at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture entitled "The Qasr-Gadara — The Monumental Gate" by Dr. Adolf Hoffmann at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

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## Give it a chance

THE Taif breakthrough on efforts to end the Lebanese strife is a triumph of reason and pragmatism over blind factional traits that have devastated Lebanon in the past decade and half. It is also a triumph for collective Arab diplomacy in general and Saudi diplomacy in particular over all efforts to internationalise the conflict. There are, of course, still pockets of opposition to the painstakingly reached agreement, notably from General Michel Aoun who views the amended Arab League formula as a threat to Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. But to all those Lebanese leaders, whether from the east or west side of Beirut, who persist in calling for subjective perfection in the quest for an equitable and just solution to Lebanon's 15 years of bloodshed and destruction and still punch holes in the Taif compromise formula, one can only say that the situation in Lebanon defies such an objective and that the only viable settlement for that country's prolonged tragedies is the one that can be found in the context of reasonable accommodation and compromise between many conflicting demands.

In more ways than one, the Taif achievement offers exactly the necessary consensus on the basis of give and take that was successfully engineered by last minute Saudi mediation. Moreover, the Taif compromise heralds the beginning of new hope for Lebanon on the basis of territorial unity of the country. It behoves Aoun and all the others who still voice disagreement with the Taif consensus to drop their provincial and parochial perspectives in favour of the general good and welfare of their country. The alternative to this wise course would be a sure prescription for the defeat of the only operational settlement ever conceived in the past many years of war and destruction. And the fact that practically all Lebanese parliamentarians representing various and competing factions have agreed to put the overall Lebanese interest above their own interests should serve as an impetus to the remaining lone voices that still in effect preach continued internecine bloodbaths till there is no Lebanon or Lebanese people left.

If the principal concern of General Aoun is the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, he would be well-advised to honour the Taif agreement because it offers the only way to deal with that situation in an amicable and functional manner. And if the anxieties of the other objectors to the Taif agreement stem from its imperfection, then they would also be better advised to note that modernising Lebanon is a dynamic and continuing process that will take long years and perhaps generations. It can only be achieved by creating confidence building blocks along the long tortuous way leading to it. The meaningful progress registered already in that direction as reflected in the Taif agreement is a good omen of more progress to come in the future. Meanwhile, all Lebanese must take notice that healing old wounds and rectifying archaic systems and infrastructure in Lebanon is a very fragile process that needs to be nursed carefully and gently all along the way to the bright future that is awaiting Lebanon and the Lebanese people. But at this critical juncture all truly concerned parties must salute the great miracle that was born in Taif and thank all the positive forces that worked diligently for it.

## Bedouin and the Election Law

By Farooq Kilani

A CONTROVERSY arose lately over the question of barring citizens from the badiya region of Jordan from running for elections as candidates representing other than constituencies designated to their respective tribal areas. Several court cases have been filed, contesting the Ministry of Interior's decision barring such candidates.

In fact, there is no law in Jordan that legally prevents any citizens from nominating himself for parliamentary election in other constituencies. Indeed, the Jordanian Constitution of 1952, unlike previous constitutions, has no provisions for the representation of the minorities and communities. Article 25 of the Constitution clearly states that the legislative council should group representatives elected under the terms of the election law, which should take into account a fair representation of minorities in the Kingdom. Article 33 of the 1946 constitution states that the house of deputies should consist of representatives elected in accordance with the election law and should take into account the fair representation of all minorities. But the present constitution does not state this rule and does not provide for any provisions concerning minorities or communities. Yet, the 1986 Election Law took into account the representation of minorities contrary to the wishes of the constitutional legislators. Therefore, all provisions connected with the representation and contained in the Election Law are null and void and run contrary to the legislators' will.

Furthermore, Article 67 of the 1952 constitution states that the Lower House of Parliament shall consist of deputies elected through secret ballot and that measures shall be taken to safeguard the election process, the right of candidates to monitor election procedures and punish those tampering with the electoral process.

Article 19 of the 1986 Election Law states that any Jordanian citizen has the right to nominate himself as candidate for parliament in one Jordanian constituency.

This provision allows candidates to nominate themselves but did not stipulate that a candidate should run for a specific constituency where he was originally registered in terms of his clan. Therefore, a Salafi can nominate himself to run in Amman and vice versa.

Moreover, constitutionally speaking, a parliament deputy is supposed to represent the whole country and not a particular constituency or clan or a tribal group. He is committed to defend public interest and the rights of all people anywhere and in any governorate.

Article 18 of the 1986 Election Law states that to run for elections a candidate should be Jordanian registered in the voters lists, above 30 years of age, should not be convicted or imprisoned or affiliated to an illegal political party, and should not be affiliated to any government department or a relative of the King. This article did not specify that a bedouin candidate should run for a badiya constituency.

In addition, the 1986 Election Law did not regard the bedouin as a minority or a faction.

The law considered only the Christians, the Shishans and Circassians as communities and minorities, but did not regard the bedouin as a community or a minority but rather citizens on equal footing with the rest of the people of Jordan. The law assigned seats for the bedouin in the Lower House of Parliament not because they belong to a community but because the badiya region was considered as a constituency inhabited by tribal nomads or bedouins.



The Christian Science Monitor/Los Angeles Times Syndicate.  
Frederik W. de Klerk limits use of force by South African troops.

## Winnie Mandela returns to forefront

By Greg Myre  
The Associated Press

SOWETO, South Africa — The government banned her, the anti-apartheid movement excommunicated her and potential legal battles cloud her future. But Winnie Mandela has survived and is reclaiming her role as one of South Africa's most prominent and defiant activists.

Mrs. Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, vanished from public view in February when leading anti-apartheid groups repudiated her and accused her self-appointed bodyguards of waging "a reign of terror."

In recent weeks, however, Mrs. Mandela has resurfaced with high-profile appearances at several opposition rallies. The relentless speculation about her husband's release, expected within several months, keeps her at the centre of the political stage. "She is blunt, rash, emotional and speaks from the heart — that is why people respond to her and why she is controversial," said Fatima Meer, author of a best-selling biography on Nelson Mandela.

"Even during the crisis, Winnie had the support and loyalty of many, many people," Mrs. Meer said in an interview. "She will remain highly visible and widely respected."

When six of Mandela's closest ANC colleagues were freed from prison Oct. 15, Mrs. Mandela accompanied one of them, Wilton Mkwayi, at her home in Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg.

She appeared that day at a rally for the freed prisoners. She prepared to sit alongside them at a news conference, but activists who organised the meeting politely redirected her to a seat behind the ANC leaders, among the families of the released men.

The releases are widely seen as a trial run for freeing Mandela, 71, the country's best known black leader. His release is considered necessary before black leaders — even relatively conservative ones — will negotiate with the white-led government.

Mandela currently lives in a suburban-style ranch house on a prison farm outside Cape Town. In recent months, he has met several times with his wife as well as anti-apartheid leaders who denounced her.

Mandela reportedly told his wife not to talk to the press, and she remained silent for several months, but has begun to speak out again.

"I am of no significance to anybody as an individual," she told Tribune magazine. "To attack me is to attack Mandela, to attack the ANC."

There has been no formal public reconciliation between Mrs. Mandela and the anti-apartheid movement, but the overt criticism of her has stopped.

One activist who requested anonymity said anti-apartheid groups are attempting to resolve their disputes with Mrs. Mandela before her husband is released, "but several problems remain." He declined to elaborate.

Several anti-apartheid leaders, including ones who earlier denounced Mrs. Mandela for "violating human rights in the name of the struggle against apartheid," refused recently to speak about her on the record.

Apartheid is the name for South Africa's policies of racial segregation.

The ANC has expressed concern about some of Mrs. Mandela's statements, and spokesman

Tom Sebina, based in Lusaka, Zambia, noted she has no formal position in the organisation. But he added that Mrs. Mandela "remains an important part of the struggle."

Mrs. Mandela's beauty, provocative statements and courageous defiance of government restrictions made her one of the most visible symbols of blacks resistance against white rule. Her followers often referred to her as "mother of the nation."

She married Mandela in 1958, when she was a 24-year-old social worker and he was a 40-year-old ANC leader. Four years later, he was arrested. He has been imprisoned since.

She was under police restrictions almost continuously from 1963 to 1986, was arrested numerous times and held in solitary confinement for 17 months in 1969-70. The repeated police action only inspired defiance in Mrs. Mandela, now age 55 and the mother of two grown daughters.

She often appeared at funerals of slain activists to give fiery speeches and clenched fist salutes, dressed in flowing dresses of black, green and gold, the colours of the outlawed ANC guerrilla movement.

But her questionable political judgment, sometimes imperious style and reluctance to consult with anti-apartheid groups led her into repeated conflict with both the white authorities and the black community.

Long-simmering disputes boiled over early this year when Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Club, were accused of abducting four youths and beating one to death.

Nine people associated with the club are in custody for the death of 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, allegedly abducted by the soccer team last December and beaten at Mrs. Mandela's home.

Seipei's body was found in a field, and the other three youths

have given affidavits implicating members of Mandela United.

The group seldom played soccer, but often stayed at Mrs. Mandela's home and accompanied her at public appearances. They were involved in repeated confrontations with police, journalists and local street gangs.

The accused, in custody since February, have pleaded innocent. No trial date has been set. Anti-apartheid groups said in February they were "outraged at Mrs. Mandela's complicity in the abductions and assault of Stompie."

She has denied any wrongdoing. Police Maj. Gen. Jaap Joubert, who headed the investigation, declined to comment when asked if she might be charged.

The death of Seipei was one of several controversies that have dogged Mrs. Mandela since she unilaterally lifted her police banning order in 1985.

At a rally in 1986, she endorsed the use of "necklace" killings, when militant activists set on fire gasoline-soaked tires around the necks of suspected government collaborators.

The government then lifted the ban on quoting Mrs. Mandela in the apparent belief she would do more harm to her reputation by speaking out than by being restricted.

In 1987, she was sharply criticised for building a mansion on a hillside in Soweto, surrounded by tiny, overcrowded matchbox houses. Mandela reportedly has told his wife not to move into it.

The Mandela's small rented home was burned in a July 1988 arson attack by Soweto youths feuding with the soccer club. Community leaders urged Mrs. Mandela to disband the team, but she ignored their advice.

"No one can take away her contributions," said Mrs. Meer. "History will never write her out of what is happening here."

## OPEN FORUM

### A reminder

FOR MANY years now, I have been urging the many heads of diplomatic missions in Amman to bring to our country works of art so that the young artists of Jordan could have access to them, to see, appreciate and learn. I have been overwhelmed lately with the prints of Picasso, Braque, Pollock etc. which were kindly exhibited for us by the French Embassy, and the French Cultural Centre. The Italians have also presented us with an exhibition of photographs of the sketches of 16th century Roman masters, including Michelangelo, Raphael and Carracci. This was done as part of the cultural exchange programme with the Ministry of Culture. This cultural effort obviously calls for many participants, on both sides, to collaborate in making arrangements for such exhibitions. Yet when people went to see it, the Italian exhibition for example, they found that it was transferred to another hall with no sign as to its whereabouts.

I would like to ask the responsible people why such a coveted exhibition of great masters, costing \$60,000 in insurance money alone, would be transferred into a gymnasium that serves as a corridor to the offices of that institution, putting the works at high risk? Why was there no stand prepared, as requested, for the large portfolio that explains the life and times of the artists? The valuable catalogue that was prepared by Alianari, printed with care on beautiful paper was to be distributed freely to the public, but there was no trace of it, since it lay within a desk somewhere.

I want to remind the people responsible, that much effort and money was put into this project to serve our country and our people. And those who serve as intermediaries should take their jobs seriously and realise that presenting such exhibitions is a noble gesture on the part of foreign countries that we should accept graciously. We are hungry for knowledge; we wait impatiently for accessions like these. Therefore, I would ask the authorities to please employ compatible people who could see the value, aesthetic and economic, of such functions and to act accordingly. I feel obliged to apologise to the Italian Embassy and hope that the next time around, many will share in the noble responsibility of respecting and protecting works of art.

Nelly Lama

## Palestinians defy Israeli tax collections

By Ian Black

NADER Qumsiyeh was looking gloomy as he surveyed the dusty carpentry workshop after the Israelis left. His three best electric saws and planes had just been loaded onto a removal van by the tax collectors, but he was still defiant.

"We don't know yet whether it was because of income tax or VAT," Mr. Qumsiyeh sighed, "but we haven't paid any since the beginning of the intifada and we won't pay now. We can manage without the machines but this is not our government. Everyone in Beit Sahour believes this."

The dismal scene in the Qumsiyeh carpentry shop has been replayed dozens of times in the past few weeks as the Israelis continue their campaign to crush a West Bank town whose tax revolt has become a potent symbol of resistance to the occupation.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of goods — including manufacturing equipment, domestic appliances, cash and jewellery — have been carted off by Israeli bailiffs escorted by armed soldiers.

Beit Sahour, a neat and relatively prosperous town of 12,000 in the "Christian triangle" centring on Bethlehem, has been singled out for economic punishment by the authorities in a controversial operation that now appears to be intensifying.

Near the domed Greek Orthodox Church down by the Biblical Shepherds' Fields, the army has commandeered an unfinished three-storey house — named Camp Asaf in Hebrew — to serve

as a headquarters for the bailiffs and their guards.

Dozens of yellow-plated Israeli cars are parked in a barbed wire enclosure along with a mobile crane and a large orange removal truck from Tel Aviv, which proudly advertises: "We move homes and offices all over the country."

The confiscations have become routine: the entire town is a closed military area with nightly curfews imposed and telephone lines cut off.

Earth rampsarts have been bulldozed into position at the entrances and soldiers patrol the streets.

The Israeli defence minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, insists that the raids were carried out with full legal authority, although some experts dispute this.

"The law stipulates that whoever breaks it will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, he declared obscurely.

Certainty about the legality of the raids is not matched by a willingness to allow them to be observed by journalists or foreigners.

The British consul in Jerusalem, Mr. Ivan Callan, has been at the centre of a diplomatic row after entering Beit Sahour last week. On Oct. 17, a colleague and I parked our car within sight of an army post and walked openly into town to witness the raid that was in progress at the Qumsiyeh carpentry shop.

Later, as we watched an Israeli officer and several armed tax officials enter another house in the centre of Beit Sahour, we were detained and held for two hours in the military government

HQ in Bethlehem and later taken to the police station, where the officer let us off with a friendly warning.

The latest attempt to crush the intifada shows no sign of being any more successful than the other punishments that the Israeli authorities have been using in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the past 22 months.

The people of Beit Sahour line the streets and watch anxiously as the Israeli convoys set out from Camp Asaf. Many tell stories of brutal searches and of outright theft by the taxmen, and, to add insult to injury, of the porters who demand baksheesh (bribe) for shifting the confiscated goods.

The pastoral tranquility of the town, with its solid red-roofed stone villas, well-tended gardens and picturesque churches, is a far cry from the dark alleys of the Nabulus casbah or the warren-like refugee camps of Gaza. But the tax revolt is Beit Sahour's proud contribution to the uprising.

Earlier this week one Palestinian was sentenced to a £2,000-fine or six months in jail for failure to submit VAT forms. Three others will soon stand trial for similar offences. Several people are reported by the Israelis to have started paying their debts.

Some may well give in under pressure, but the majority, like Nader Qumsiyeh, will probably carry on.

"Taxes are paid by people to their own legitimate political bodies," a leaflet explained when the Israeli raids began. "The services provided to the Palestinians are opening new jails and building new settlements" — The Guardian.

## Gorbachev tightens controls over the press

By Michael Putzel  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev moved to assert tighter control over the Soviet press last week with a left-right combination that stunned both Communist hard-liners and proponents of greater freedom.

The manoeuvres showed that the press in this country, free-wheeling as it has become in a few years of glasnost, still is not free and serves at the behest of the country's leaders.

The newspapers are informative, unpredictable, critical, even feisty, but their editors can't always do what they want.

At a meeting with editors of major publications, whom Gorbachev has summoned periodically for pep talks on perestroika, as he calls his reform programme, the president rebuked the mass media for stirring public passions at a time of great uncertainty.

Beyond that, few specifics are known about what Gorbachev said in the two-hour meeting, another sign the leadership still controls what can be reported.

Pravda, the Communist Party daily newspaper, normally would have printed a full text of Gorbachev's remarks a few days later without comment, but it carried nothing about the proceedings. Nor did the official TASS news agency or the other national dailies that traditionally have been the people's main source of information about their rulers and the world beyond.

Many of the early — and most inflammatory — accounts of the session came from Soviet journalists who weren't present, but had been briefed by their bosses. Under the cloak of anonymity and in the more casual climate spawned by glasnost, or openness, dismayed Soviet journalists described to their Western colleagues what they regarded as an assault on the gains they so recently have made.

Gorbachev reportedly called for the resignation of the editor of Arguments and Facts, Vladimir A. Starkov, who has led his weekly in little more than a year from a recorder of social statistics circulated only among party members to a breezily written tabloid that has soared in circulation.

Arguments and Facts now has a circulation of 26 million, more than double its 1988 level.

On Oct. 16, Starkov was called to the party's central committee headquarters, where he reportedly was given a dressing-down by Gorbachev's ideology chief and told he had two days to think over his position.

Soviet lawmakers, the newspaper's workers and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists rallied to the editor's defence.

He kept his job. But the edition that appeared on Oct. 20 was

a chastened version of its former self.

Its first three pages were devoted entirely to two articles. The lead story said that a poll the paper published two weeks ago indicating human rights activist Andrei Sakharov was more popular than Gorbachev was an unscientific sampling of readers' letters.

The article then reported the results of what it described as a scientific poll of 2,461 people selected by a party central committee affiliate as a representative cross-section of the nation.

Although Sakharov had some popular support among students, the poll showed, Gorbachev's performance garnered a favourable assessment from 66 per cent of those surveyed.

The second two-thirds of page 1, all of page 2 and most of page 3 were devoted to a friendly interview with Yegor K. Ligachev, the sole surviving party hard-liner on the ruling Politburo.

Ligachev condemned efforts by reformers to restore the concept of private property and defended the Soviet Union's one-party system, saying the Communist Party is the only organisation capable of guiding and consolidating all forces in the multi-

ethnic union.

In a break with custom that normally shields party leaders' private lives from public view, Ligachev portrayed himself as a family man who goes bicycling for relaxation, although the party provides him with a dacha and a limousine as a member of the Politburo.

He also revealed that, like all members of the ruling body, he makes 1,200 roubles (\$1,900) a month, nearly six times the average worker's wage.

While Arguments and Facts may be charting a more careful, pro-government path in the future, Pravda, the authoritative voice of the party, also took a sudden and equally abrupt turn.

Viktor G. Afanasyev, the 66-year-old editor in chief who had headed the official party organ since 1976, was ousted Oct. 19 and replaced by Ivan T. Frolov, a Gorbachev aide and Communist philosopher.

Frolov is said to have come up with the ideological underpinning for Gorbachev's conciliatory foreign policy. That policy is based on the need for cooperation among nations rather than the past Soviet doctrine that promoted revolution and class war.

وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان  
دائرة المقادير الحكومية



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

### Invitation for Central Tender No. 76/89 for the supply of plant and equipment for the Directorate of Maintenance and Traffic-Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Concerned local companies and those from countries who are members of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan (China) who are interested to participate in this tender are invited to call on the Government Central Tenders Directorate starting from 23/10/1989 to collect the tender documents as follows:-

1. Description of work- Supply of plant and equipment for road maintenance, vehicles and sign manufacturing machinery for the Directorate of Maintenance and Traffic/Ministry of Public Works and Housing, as shown in the bill of quantities.
2. The cost of tender documents are JD 100 (non-refundable).
3. Last date for the purchase of tender documents is 14/11/89.
4. The Central Tenders Committee has the right to award any one item of the bill of quantities to the lowest responsive bidder.
5. Tenders shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 1:30 p.m., Saturday 2/12/1989.

Chairman of Central Tenders Committee  
Director General of Government  
Tenders Directorate,  
Eng. Saleh Odeh.



# Magic from a tree

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — The 20th century is just beginning to discover the amazing properties of an ancient oil, product of a tree. Tea tree oil, as it is called, is gaining international recognition as one of nature's offerings toward health and beauty, and it is now found in a variety of products ranging from skin creams to laundry soap.

Known to Australia's native aborigines for thousands of years, the tea tree does not produce tea, as one might expect, but rather an essential oil prized for its capacity to heal and disinfect. The tree got its name because early settlers in Australia, desperate for a hot drink, brewed the leaves of what is scientifically known as *Melaleuca alternifolia*.

After decades of neglect by the modern cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries, the oil of the tea tree has captured the imagination of entrepreneurs who believe that exploiting its natural and unique properties could be the answer to many skin complaints. One man who has discovered the commercial possibilities of tea tree oil is 59-year-old Dr. Jake Vromen, originally from Holland and a resident of Australia for the past 12 years. Vromen has studied the tree's origins and properties thoroughly and has launched a successful range of beauty-care and healing products sold mostly in health-food stores all over Australia.

The eclectic Vromen, who has worked in different trades and in many parts of the world, says that tea tree oil is a penetrating antiseptic and is one of the broadest-

spectrum fungicides known. It does not attack healthy cells, and is milder than many antiseptic products.

Vromen, who has dedicated the past eight years to the study of the oil, developed the 22-product line himself and markets it under the name "Australian Melaleuca."

The aborigines press the leaves to extract the oil which they use to cure anything from insect bites to wounds and to prevent infections in the most remarkable way, he explains in an interview during a business trip to Paris. Knowledge of the tree's properties was passed down through generations of aborigines who live in the bush in remote parts of Australia, but its healing properties were soon forgotten by foreign settlers. Tea tree oil was ignored until the 1930s, when the then-curator of the Technological Museum in Sydney took an interest in it. His work was continued by other prominent medical researchers, who without exception concluded that tea tree oil possessed remarkable properties.

"During the war," says Vromen, referring to World War II, "it was part of the Australian soldier's kit. But soon after, with the advent of synthetic disinfectants, people lost interest in natural products and tea tree oil all but disappeared."

## Recognition

With the new interest in natural and biological products that has swept from America to Europe and now to Japan, tea tree oil seems on the verge of well-deserved recognition. Popu-

lar with a growing number of health-conscious consumers, the fragrant, pale-yellow oil is in high demand, with the result that prices shot up from U.S. \$30 for a kilo a few years ago to \$120 today.

When the price of his raw material skyrocketed, Vromen realised that his range of products would become prohibitively expensive to make. Then he heard that a tea tree plantation was for sale in the New South Wales region: 400 acres of land, 100 of which were already planted. Impulsive and passionate about his work, the mildly eccentric Vromen, who looks the part of the mad professor with his flowing grey beard and hair, did not hesitate. He immediately obtained a loan and bought the plantation. The tea tree — or, more precisely, the *Melaleuca alternifolia* species in the family that produces the precious oil — is indigenous only to the north-east coastal region of New South Wales. Vromen's plantation in this region, located some 450 kilometres north of Sydney, is, he proudly claims, the only plantation in the country that is not susceptible to flooding. "The tea tree grows in fairly wet, marshy land, and most of the other plantations have been flooded two or three times already this year. The plant is hardy so it is resistant, but floods make the trees inaccessible and therefore impossible to harvest," Vromen notes.

Under normal conditions, the fast-growing, short, paper-barked tree can be harvested two or three times a year. Its small branches with their tiny leaves that

look like soft pine needles are crushed and boiled in water in huge vats called bush stills. Each still can take up to 1,200 kilograms of the small branches, which, when boiled, release the oil into the water. When the mixture is cooled, the water and oil separate in what is a very simple distillation process.

Vromen is working on finding ways to augment the oil yield by improving the distillation method. "In theory, one should get up to 3.5 per cent of oil out of the leaf, but in practice, we only get about 2 per cent," he says. "Most commercial plantations actually get only 1 per cent."

Part of the reason for Vromen's recent visit to Europe was to confer with a Dutch engineer in Amsterdam with whom he has worked on several other projects. Vromen is hoping that the engineer will have some suggestions as to production methods. Says Vromen of his long-time engineer friend: "He understands my ideas and works them out in machines."

## Solar-controlled irrigation system

Already Vromen is using unusual techniques on his plantation: One is a solar-controlled irrigation system that automatically waters the trees as soon as sensors in the system note that the soil is too dry.

In the nursery where he says that he has one million seedlings ready for the planting, Vromen is studying with the Australian Department of Agriculture ways to breed the plant to obtain specific

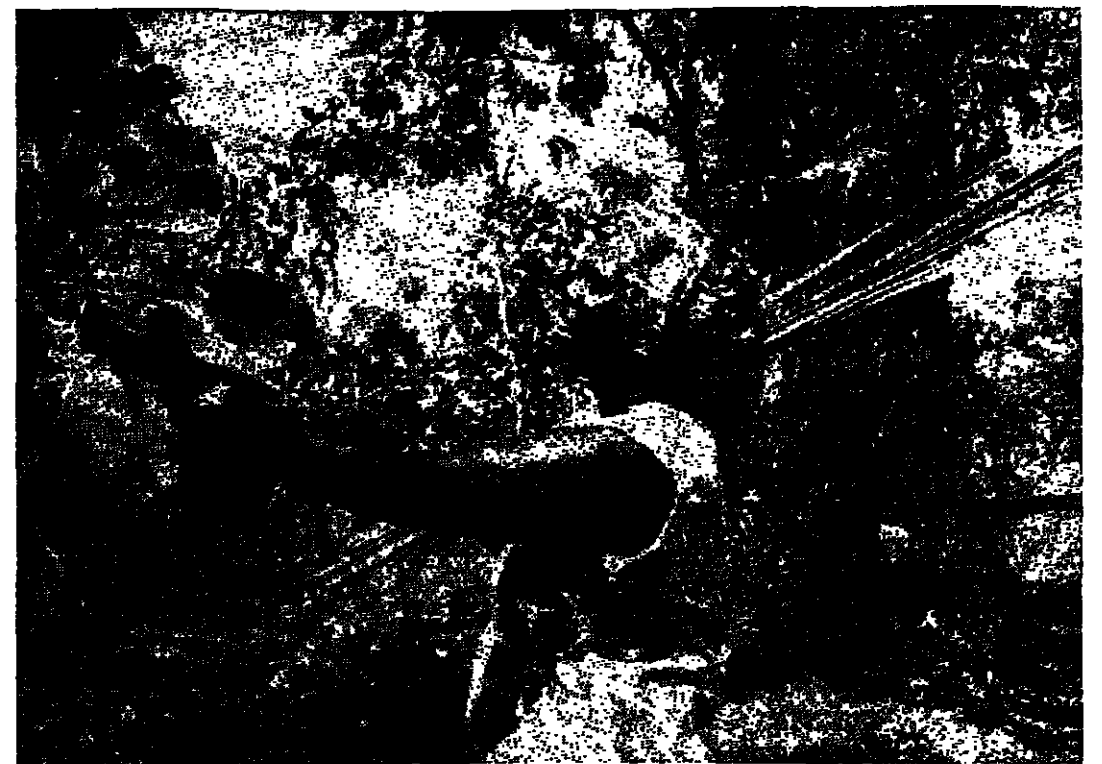
results: "Tea tree oil can contain up to 10 per cent or more of what is called cineole. This gives a strong camphor-like smell, and cineole (which makes up about 50 per cent of eucalyptus oil) is irritating on the skin. Oil with even 10 per cent of cineole is too strong for cosmetic purposes, so we are working on breeding seedlings which produce only 4 per cent."

Sandalwood oil can also act as a disinfecting agent, Vromen says, but the problem is that it's the bark that must be harvested, which causes the tree to die.

## Beauty care

Focusing on tea tree oil, Vromen has developed a wide range of products: shampoo, hair conditioner, moisturizer, shaving cream, face cleanser, antiseptic cream, muscle relaxant cream, insect repellent and sun screen, all of which contain different concentrations of the oil. While some of his products are for beauty care, others are strictly medicinal.

Mixing tea tree oil with a wide range of other essential oils such as mint, rosemary and lavender, Vromen, who has created all the recipes himself, has sought to enhance the unique properties of "his" oil. "I combine it with other essential oils, using them in the right quantities so they actually do something," he explains. His standards are exacting: to obtain essential oils that are pure enough, he imports the citronella, mint and spearmint oils from China, while the rosemary comes from Tunisia and the



Known to Australia's Aborigines for thousands of years, the properties of tea tree oil are being discovered by the modern world.

lavender from France.

Some of the products were created out of necessity. "My grandson was suffering from terrible, recurring athlete's foot (a skin fungus that causes rashes and itching on the feet and between the toes), so I developed a balm based on tea tree oil, and in three days it had completely cleared up," he recalls.

He is also especially proud of his shaving cream: "It is used as a shaving foam but is soothing and antiseptic, so there are no after-shave rashes." Products especially appreciated by women include a massage and body cream to be applied after waxing their legs and which prevents skin redness

or irritation.

Added to laundry soap, tea tree oil can replace the environmentally dangerous phosphates present in most detergents. Vromen, who worked for many years in the textile industry, says he has invented an effective and biodegradable washing liquid for clothes. Originally developed as a conditioner for silk and wool, the laundry soap is said to condition fibres and leave clothes soft and easy to iron.

"I invented this partly as a matter of self-interest," Vromen quips. "I am very lazy and hate ironing, and with this washing liquid, it is hardly necessary, quite a good point with the Au-

stralian climate — we often have to change clothes several times a day!"

Vromen is also marketing a dishwashing liquid, and now under study is a range of pet-care products in which tea tree oil acts as an insect and flea repellent.

Although the benefits of tea tree oil are widely recognised, modern science has yet to discover how the "magic" works. Clinical and chemical studies are under way to identify its 48 components, but the aborigines' healing oil is likely to remain a mystery for some time to come. Vromen and many others are content simply to trust in nature. — *World News Link*



Allen with Farrow

## New Woody Allen film is serious story of murder

By Arthur Spiegelman  
Reuters

NEW YORK — Actor Martin Landau welcomes a visitor to his hotel suite looking very much like a man who is about to be hailed by the critics for getting away with murder.

Landau, a blue-eyed veteran of more villain roles than he cares to recall, plays a doctor who gets away with murder in Woody

Allen's latest film, "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

It's a fine-tuned performance that dominates the screen and is far from some one-dimensional roles of his past. At an age which he refuses to divulge for career reasons — he is in his 50s — Landau is becoming a star.

The big question about "crimes and misdemeanors" is not about Landau's sympathetic performance as a rich doctor who has a

bothersome lover rubbed out. It is whether the critics and the public will stand for a Woody Allen film that asks where God is when a man murders.

Even in the confused moral climate of the 1980s there are some things viewers might find objectionable.

Finding a character like Landau's may be one. Finding out that people can survive their most horrible deeds may be another.

Having to sit through a serious Woody Allen film could be a third.

Film critics still swap tales of the trouble Charlie Chaplin got into when he made a film about a modern-day bluebeard who, despite a proclivity for killing women, was a very nice person.

They also caution that as he grows older, Allen seems to be revealing a dark side that poses uncomfortable questions to an

audience that seeks out his films for laughter's sake.

As for Landau, he has come into his own decades after he entered acting school with Steve McQueen, was friends with James Dean, dated Marilyn Monroe and had his best scenes in Elizabeth Taylor's "Cleopatra" left on the cutting-room floor.

Although known as one of Hollywood's best acting teachers — Jack Nicholson is one star pupil

— Landau is mostly remembered by Americans as the chief spy in the "Mission Impossible" television series and for dozens of villain roles, including the chilling Leonard in Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest."

He's been everything but a star. "I'm ready," he said, knocking Woody in his hotel room, just a few days before "Crimes and Misdemeanors" was to open.

# Time to work...

# Time to relax.



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## Iranian rial remains fragile despite government intervention

DUBAI (R) — Iran, facing renewed weakness in the value of its rial, is learning the hard way that intervention in currency markets is not a long-term solution to its economic woes, Western bankers and Iranian economists say.

Tehran's central bank this month made its first attempt in years at using monetary weapons to sort out the fundamental economic problems sparked by a blackmarket exchange rate that has at times reached 20 times the official rate.

But Iranian economists and Western bankers in the Gulf say the bank's use of its limited hard currency reserves, estimated at between \$5 to \$7 billion, to bring down the rate cannot last.

"It's a brave try but what they really need is a coherent credit and investment policy, and above all a coherent political agenda to get back on economic track," said

one Western banker.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, backed by his new, monetarist-minded Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh, has said the vast difference between official and blackmarket rates was at the root of Iran's economic ills.

In an attempt to cut the differential, the central bank has for the past week set a new daily rate at which state-affiliated bodies can buy foreign exchange for overseas transactions.

The special rate has so far been at 1,000 rials to the dollar, compared with the normal official rate of only 72.

The immediate effect was to

shake out speculators looking for a further rial decline and the blackmarket rate came very close to 1,000 to the dollar, Iranian dealers said.

Some dealers thought the central bank could gradually lower this "intervention" rate as time went by.

But in the past few days, the blackmarket rial has started to decline again, said dealers in the important offshore Iranian-trading centre of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Economists say the most fundamental reason behind the decline is that the blackmarket rial rate is a more real free market rate than in many countries with a currency blackmarket.

Local dealers say political upheavals in the past years have pushed the rial by 100 to 300 either way against the dollar.

Otherwise, the blackmarket rate reflects fundamental valuations and the long-term pressure

is for the government to scrap its unrealistic 72-rial official rate, they say.

Another problem is one that Western central bankers might sympathise with — the central bank has committed itself to what amounts to a moving exchange rate target, yet speculators believe it does not have the depth of reserves to back this up.

"The government cannot afford to keep the dollars flowing to sustain a long-term intervention rate if people see no hope of underlying policy changes to stimulate the real economy," said a Gulf-based Iranian economic analyst.

Economists say that even if Iran pours one billion of its reserves into its new scheme it will not be enough.

Iran gets 90 per cent of its hard currency from oil exports with no real alternative earners in sight and cannot afford to run down its reserves too far, they say.

## Jordan studies new arbitration law

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day Euro-Arab arbitration conference opened in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to settling commercial disputes between Arab and European businessmen.

Justice Minister Rateb Al Wazani, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, delivered the opening address underlining the importance of arbitration in modern trade and its immense assistance to courts of law to settle commercial disputes.

Keen on arbitration to help settle disputes, Jordan joined the World Arbitration Agreement of 1985 and 1987 although national arbitration legislations were issued in 1953.

Providing the necessary vehicle to carry out arbitration procedures in the Kingdom since the enactment of the law on arbitration, courts have been able to settle hundreds of cases, the minister noted.

At present the Justice Ministry is working out a new law on arbitration taking into account



The opening session Monday of the third Euro Arab arbitration congress in Amman (Petra photo)

new trends in commercial disputes and other important matters connected with trade, the minister added.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman

of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Dr. Burhan Dajani, secretary-general of the Arab Chambers of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture, both delivered speeches at the opening session underlining the importance of arbitration to trade in general and courts in particular and the positive effect of arbitration on international relations.

With the growth of Arab-European commercial relations and trade dealings, importers and exporters find arbitration exceedingly important for settling problems that could crop up between them in the course of commerce, they said.

The participants will discuss arbitration legislations and Western regulations, international laws on arbitration, modern

trends in European legislations in arbitration matters, international commercial laws and other affiliated topics.

Several cabinet members, heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan and representatives of commercial and economic organisations in the Kingdom attended the opening session.

The meeting, which is being attended by 300 delegates from Arab and foreign nations, was organised by the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Following the opening session, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, the participants held two sessions dealing with international commercial arbitration and pan-Arab agreements on arbitration.

## Singapore trade team seeks Jordanian ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce (SMCC) delegation visited Jordan last week as part of a business trip which covered Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The SMCC Trade and Investment Mission, accompanied by the Singapore Ambassador to Egypt and Jordan comprised small and middle-sized manufacturers, traders and businessmen. The purpose of the delegation's visit was to meet with their Jordanian counterparts in order to establish business contacts and investigate possibilities of partnerships in industrial and commercial investments.

The delegation met with their Jordanian counterparts at the Amman Chamber of Industry and at the Jordan Technology Group where they extended an invitation to participate in four-day international Muslim Food & Technology Exhibition, IMFEX 90, to be held in Singapore in August 1990. In conjunction with the exhibition, a two-day seminar on "Halal" food will be held where eminent personalities from overseas will be invited to speak on various aspects of the topic.

This exhibition and seminar is particularly important bearing in mind that Singapore is surrounded by the extremely large and populous nations of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand which together represent a market of over 300 million, most of whom are Muslims.

Singapore Ambassador Tan Keng Jin, indicated that in 1988, Singapore exports to Jordan were double the value of what it imported from the Kingdom. This fact does not conform with the pattern of trade that Singapore has with the rest of the world, the ambassador disclosed.

He noted that in 1988 Singapore's total trade with the world amounted to \$84 billion of which, Singapore's imports amounted to \$4.5 billion (53%) which exports were only \$39.5 billion (47%). 35% of the total trade were imports which Singapore purchased and retained.

In addition, another 35% of total trade were imported into Singapore for the purpose of reexporting to other countries. This consisted of Singapore's entrepot trade.

## Commonwealth endorses equity fund for developing countries

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Commonwealth leaders endorsed Monday an equity fund designed to funnel \$50 to \$100 million of capital from rich nations into stock markets of developing countries in the 49-nation group.

Officials at a Commonwealth summit said the fund was likely to be floated in financial centres in developed countries and would boost emerging bourses in countries such as Malaysia, Zimbabwe and Jamaica by investing in local firms.

A lead manager will be appointed to oversee the fund, which will be named "tribus issue" after the national flower of Malaysia, host of the week-long summit.

The fund, which had the backing of Commonwealth finance ministers who met in Jamaica last month, received the stamp of approval of leaders from Britain and its former empire.

Officials said the fund would help developing countries, which comprise over half of the Commonwealth, attract foreign capital to start new businesses or expand existing ones.

Commonwealth leaders also urged industrialised nations Monday to balance monetary with fiscal policies to ease pressure on interest rates which have raised the debt burden of poor nations and choked economic growth.

They expressed concern that the emergence of regional trade groupings could lead to greater protectionism and that poor nations were not reaping the benefits of current world economic growth.

Peter Urwin, the Commonwealth's deputy director-general of economics, said Britain and Canada assured members that the merging of the European Community into a single market after

1992 and the recent signing of a U.S.-Canada free trade agreement would open rather than close markets.

He said Commonwealth leaders recognised that high interest rates helped check inflation, but also realised they caused "very great difficulties for developing countries."

"There was a feeling the message had to be broadcast that high interest rates were damaging developing countries' efforts to service debts, grow out of difficulties and so on," he said.

Urwin told reporters after a debate on the world economy that members saw a major role for the private sector in the world economy.

While the leaders did not ask Commonwealth members Britain and Canada to voice their concerns to the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations,

"there was a call for a mix between monetary and fiscal policy," another Commonwealth official said.

An official of a developing nation in the Commonwealth said they were concerned that policies of the G-7 to raise interest rates to check inflation raised their debt burden and were "literally crippling a lot of countries."

Currency adjustments had raised the cost of loans to poor nations by an average 16 per cent from 1984-1988, while capital flows from poor to rich nations reached up to \$70 billion a year at a time when these resources were most needed, another official said.

Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley called for an economic summit involving developed countries, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and commercial banks, to discuss these problems.

## Jordan to begin exports to Soviet Union soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will shortly start exports of national products to the Soviet Union worth \$20 million, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Mohammad Al Saqqaf.

Saqqaf was speaking following a meeting with the Soviet economic attaché in Amman with whom he discussed arrangements for commencing the export procedures.

Saqqaf said Jordan would sell the Soviet Union clothes, chemical detergents, cosmetics, vegetables and fruits, phosphates, gas ranges, refrigerators and syringes.

## Khouri praises USAID

AMMAN (J.T.) — Housing Bank General Manager Zuhair Khouri Monday presented awards to the seven winners of the bank's low cost housing design competition. At a ceremony attended by the United States Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Roscoe Suddarth, and the Acting Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Mr. William Oliver, Khouri expressed appreciation for USAID assistance to the bank in the form of guarantees for low cost housing loans, and for USAID support for increased involvement by the private sector in designing and building housing to meet the needs of Jordan's poorer families. USAID funded the cash awards which were worth \$30,000.

## ARAMEX launches contest

AMMAN (J.T.) — ARAMEX International Courier is sponsoring an art contest for the creation and design of its corporate "poster" in which students (age 13 and above) of six prominent schools in Amman were invited to participate.

The closing date for submitting entries is Dec. 10th. A selected committee of five will judge all the poster-entries submitted, and results will be announced on/around Dec. 20th. There will be cash prizes for the first three winners.

Students will have six weeks to submit their entries and show off their artistic talents and graphic abilities in this contest. The theme of the poster will be ARAMEX, what ARAMEX does and what ARAMEX is all about. Students were asked to come up with something different and unique related to the image and identity of ARAMEX as a Jordanian-Arab, yet international, courier and express company that is a pioneer in its specialised field in the regional air-transport industry.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday October 23, 1989  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	99.6	100.6
U.S. dollar	627.0	633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	440.3	444.7
Pound Sterling	977.9	1007.9	Dutch guilder	299.4	302.4
Deutschemark	338.0	341.4	Swedish crown	97.3	98.3
Swiss franc	385.7	389.6	Italian lira (for 100)	45.9	46.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	160.6	162.2

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	One Sterling	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.5885/95	Canadian dollar
	1.1725/35	Deutschemark
	1.8570/77	Dutch guilders
	2.0960/67	Swiss francs
	1.6285/95	Belgian francs
	39.00/14	French francs
	6.3025/75	Italian lire
	1363/1364	Japanese yen
	142.30/40	Swedish crowns
	6.4425/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.9300/50	Danish crown
	7.2260/2310	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	365.70/366.20	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Qintex dominated the market, plunging more than 50 per cent after the bankruptcy filing of its U.S. entertainment affiliate. The All Ordinaries index lost 5.6 points to 1,668.1.

TOKYO — An early rise took the Nikkei index near its record high and caused concern about possible overheating. The index slipped back to close at 35,585.52, a gain of 99.14.

HONG KONG — Strong interest in banking stocks led the market upwards. The Hang Seng index gained 28.22 to 2,732.17.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrials tracked Tokyo and Hong Kong, gaining 19.42 points to 1,365.02.

BOMBAY — Share prices finished higher in moderate trading for the new account aided by technical considerations.

FRANKFURT — West German share prices shrugged off early declines to end virtually unchanged. The DAX 30-share index closed at 1,523.22, just 0.99 points below Friday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly lower in slow trading. The all-share performance index lost three points to 1,145.9.

PARIS — Share prices quickly rebounded from a lower start. The CAC-40 index rose rapidly to 0.24 per cent up by midsession, at 1,869.51.

LONDON — Share prices remained firm in exceptionally quiet trade. At 1533 GMT the FTSE index was 9.8 points up at 2,188.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips succumbed to profit-taking and fell near the day's lows. The Dow fell about seven to 2683.

### NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus

has made a big splash in maritime circles in the past month, achieving a large increase in both its shipping registry and the number of ship-related offshore companies opening offices on the east Mediterranean island.

Seafarers Management Co. Ltd. has announced it registered two additional ships totalling 240,000 tons with the Cyprus flag, and intend to register 12 more vessels totalling 1.6 million tons currently under construction.

Zenon Katsourides, the shipping adviser to President George Vassiliou, said this was additional to the transfer earlier this month to the Cyprus registry of 10 vessels formerly under the Panamanian flag.

The 10 ships range from 40,000 to 100,000 tons. One of them is owned by a United States company and four are Japanese owned, he added in an interview.

In a related development the West German government has also informed the Cyprus government it was extending recognition

to a local marine training school as the only non-German school worldwide to train seamen for vessels under the German flag.

Katsourides said: "The recognition of the school based in Cyprus by the German government is of the tremendous importance."

"These developments are a great vote of confidence and strengthen our determination to make Cyprus one of the largest shipping powers and a major international shipping centre," he added.

This spurt in interest followed last month's staging in Nicosia of the "Maritime Cyprus 1989" conference which attracted more than 850 delegates from ship owning and ship related industries from 26 countries.

The conference marked the launching of a campaign to make Cyprus, which with 2,000 ships in its registry has the third largest merchant shipping fleet in the

world, no. 1 both in registrations and services offered.

The island's shipping image was given a boost during the conference by C.P. Srivastava, the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organisation.

He said the success of the conference "is a great tribute to Cyprus and a recognition of the fact that Cyprus with its ancient maritime tradition has also become a modern maritime nation. It is a great combination of a great maritime tradition mingled with excellent facilities today for the conduct of marine business."

Katsourides said following the conference many of the delegates expressed an interest in opening local offices.

He said in the wake of the conference that several ship owners, including Amer Shipping and InterShip Agencies of India, also announced they will be transferring their ships to the Cyprus flag.

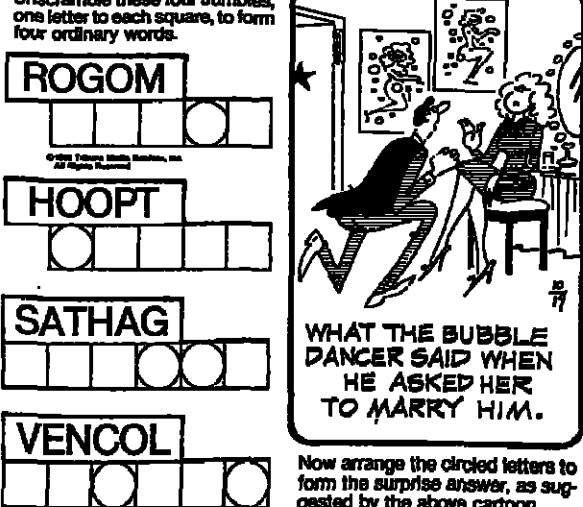
### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Don't forget to pick up some mouthwash and toothpaste when you go out today."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



WHAT THE BUBBLE DANCER SAID WHEN HE ASKED HER TO MARRY HIM.

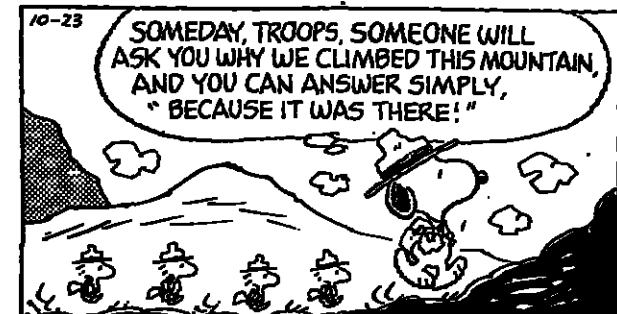
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXPERT FUDGE MYSTIC STOLEN

Answer: What the egghead lets off plenty of—SELF-E-STEEM

### Peanuts



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp





## European soccer:

## Soccer under threat in Netherlands

Reuters

DUTCH soccer, so admired internationally, is in disarray at home after crowd violence took a sinister turn at the weekend.

Leading officials called for domestic fixtures to be suspended for six months after two home-made bombs were hurled into the crowd at Sunday's league game between Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord Rotterdam, injuring 14.

Even the skills of exports like Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard cannot disguise the off-field problems faced by the Dutch authorities.

Police said Monday they were holding two Feyenoord supporters suspected of having thrown the bombs into the packed 27,000-capacity stadium.

Arrests for soccer hooliganism

in the Netherlands have risen by about 30 per cent in the past year and exasperated politicians and sports figures said the violence could spell the end of Dutch professional soccer.

"Unless this problem is solved very quickly, it's over for professional football in the Netherlands," admitted Pim Vermeulen, mayor of the Feyenoord district.

Ajax were banned from European competition for a year after supporters threw iron bars on the pitch during UEFA Cup tie against Austria Vienna less than a month ago.

The national association of supporters' clubs in England, the only country with a worse hooligan reputation than the Netherlands, called for all Dutch clubs to be excluded from European competition, the fate of English sides

since the Heysel disaster four years ago.

In the circumstances, Ajax's 1-1 draw with Feyenoord was a near-irrelevance. PSV Eindhoven lost 1-0 to newly-promoted Vitesse Saturday and were replaced on top by Roda JC Kerkrade who drew 1-1 with lowly FC Groningen Sunday.

In Italy, Diego Maradona and his Napoli side were again the star attractions after beating champions Internazionale 2-0 to banish bad memories of their goalless UEFA Cup draw against Wetztingen in Switzerland last week.

Maradona and Brazilian team mate Careca both scored late goals to leave Napoli the league's only unbeaten team.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** In the early morning all sorts of upsets and changes can take place so don't allow yourself to get disturbed because later on during the day as the planets change position you will be under an influence that gives you the ability to fill any voids.

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 17) You will have new ideas for your home which are extremely good now. You can make mistakes if you are too anxious to acquire money now.

**TAURUS:** (April 18 to May 19) Use an opportunity now that gives you a chance to be helpful to a good friend. If workmen are to make repairs at home, this is the time to do so.

**GEMINI:** (May 20 to June 20) Make as many new friends as possible at this time. An argument at home should be sidetracked to prevent intermittent trouble.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 21 to July 21) Don't get drawn into an argument brewing between close companions. You will be able to handle basic expenses with good judgement and helpfulness.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Spending too much money socially will find you holding an empty bag. Petty arguments at home now will achieve no good purpose whatsoever.

**VERGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Furnish an important financial matter with an interesting new friend. Business persons will be very helpful to you at this time.

**LIRKA:** (September 22 to October 22) You are winding up a friendship but you can't help it, so don't be sad. You will have to be exact to keep your financial affairs from being in a muddle.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Take some presents to your attachment who now has hurt feelings. Calm down business-wise before you attempt to make any judgements.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 20) Don't let your outside worries bother you and don't burden your family with them. A restricted plan to add to your assets could easily put you behind the eight ball.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 21 to January 18) You will need to combine affection and self control to please your loved one. Every expert you know or can contact will now help you in your business affairs.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 19 to February 17) Try to see friends and acquaintances that have been difficult for you to contact lately. Don't go off on any tangent where money or business are concerned.

**PISCES:** (February 18 to March 19) Don't let an old contact coming back into your life waste so much of your time. Be alert to an up to date and modern business opportunity.

**Today's child:** If your child were born today he or she will be well equipped for learning but is apt to do a lot of fanciful and imaginative day dreaming early in life and will need to have a lot of assistance to keep in focus and heading in the right direction. Attention to diet will be a must as this individual will have a large appetite.

**"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.**

## Silivas proves a thorn in Boginskaya's side

STUTTGART (R) — The graceful Svetlana Boginskaya may be the rightful new queen of gymnastics but she was firmly upstaged by Romania's Daniela Silivas as the world championships drew to a close.

Olympic silver medalist Silivas failed miserably in her aim of winning the all-round title, not even earning a runners-up medal as Boginskaya ran away with the crown.

But it is the plucky Silivas that most fans will remember, winning three apparatus gold medals in two days and gatecrashing Boginskaya's celebrations of the floor title along the way.

To add insult to injury, Silivas was presented with an award at the closing ceremony Sunday after being voted the most charming gymnast by spectators. Boginskaya watched the proceedings with a pout.

The best new Soviet world champion can hope for is that Silivas will call it a day after three appearances at the world championships and leave her to enjoy

her reign in peace.

Silivas, who like Boginskaya earned five perfect marks in the nine-day world championships, has declared her intention to carry on competing but at 19 — a veteran in gymnastics terms — her days are surely numbered.

Romania, after losing the women's team title to the Soviet Union and seeing the demise of 1987 world champion Aurelia Dobro, will want to rebuild their team around Cristina Bontas, winner of a silver and a bronze individual medal here, and the 16-year-old Gabriela Potorac before the next world championships in Indianapolis in 1991 and the Barcelona Olympics the following year.

Boginskaya, tall for a gymnast at 1.64 metres, has brought grace back into the sport — her slinky, dance-based floor routine which gave her the gold medal with Silivas earned a perfect score in all three competitions — and it will be interesting to see if other nations follow suit.

China, after years of dis-

appointment for their female gymnasts, suddenly found everything had come right and Pan Di, who shared the asymmetric bars gold with Silivas, became only their second woman's title winner in history after Ma Yanhong took gold on the same apparatus in 1979.

Li Jing and Li Chunyang also won gold for the men's team and China will be trying to close the gap on the Soviet Union before they go to Indianapolis.

"The Soviet team are very strong and if we want to beat them we are really going to have to try very hard," said Chinese coach Huang Yubin. "We have still got a lot to do."

The Soviet men's team has such depth of talent that they did not even miss the haughty and entertaining Dmitry Bilozerchev, all-round champion two years ago but dropped from the squad after a drinking spree.

Igor Kharobchinsky, at only 19, set himself up as the big name for the foreseeable future by winning the all-round title — with a 10 on



Daniela Silivas

the vault — and the floor exercise as well as contributing to the nation's fifth team victory since 1979.

The only gold medal not going back to China or an East Bloc nation was the rings gold which went, to the delight of the Stuttgart fans, to West German Andreas Agular in a decision which angered the East Germans who had to settle for silver.

## Kasparov beats Deep Thought

NEW YORK (R) — World chess champion Gary Kasparov was the easy victor in a man-versus-machine chess battle Sunday.

Kasparov soundly defeated "Deep Thought," the world's highest ranked computer in 53 moves in the first game of a two-game match at the New York Academy of Art.

"I expected it," the smiling Kasparov said after the first game. "I think in 18 or 19 moves I was sure that I would win."

Kasparov had predicted his victory in a news conference before the match saying that while the computer was good, it did not have enough "fantasy, intuition and imagination."

Chess grand masters analysing the game said that Kasparov won with a quiet but aggressive game which simply wore down the computer.

Kasparov and Deep Thought played 90 minutes each instead of the usual 150 minutes which many expected to work to the

computer's advantage.

But Shelby Lyman, a television chess commentator, said Kasparov was never in danger of running out of time, despite his being 15 minutes below Deep Thought.

Lyman and Edmar Mednis analysed each move on a large chess board for the paying crowd of more than 400.

"The game was so one-sided that time did not become a factor," Lyman said.

Kasparov said the Deep Thought's biggest problem was its failure to perceive that it was in trouble.

Murray Campbell, one of a team of graduate students from Carnegie Mellon who created Deep Thought, said the computer didn't realise it was at a disadvantage until about 10 moves too late.

"It wasn't given a chance to show its best style of play because of the way Kasparov played," said Campbell.

The computer was operated by



Gary Kasparov

Campbell and Feng Hsiung Hsu, who sat at the table with Kasparov pushing in each move.

Deep Thought has already beaten several grand masters. The computer's United States Chess Federation rating is 2550, slightly higher than the average for a grand master.

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## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OSMAR SHARIF  
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## LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 7  
♥ A 8 7 5 4  
♦ J 10 8 6  
♣ Q J 4

WEST EAST  
♠ J 10 6 4 5  
♥ Q J 6 5  
♦ Q 7 3  
♣ 10 8 2

SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 9 8 3 2  
♥ Veld  
♦ A K 5 2  
♣ A K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass  
4 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass  
5 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

This hand looks simple enough. How would you play it in a duplicate pairs event? At rubber bridge?

South was perhaps a little reluctant in the bidding, especially since North persisted in no trump. That indicated some kind of diamond fit.

However, with a void in hearts he was afraid he might not be able to reach dummy.

At duplicate, you have no problem. You are safe unless trumps are 4-1 and the queen of diamonds is offside, and you can collect an over-trick if trumps break and the diamond finesse works. So the with the ace of hearts, discarding a diamond, take the diamond finesse and go down one trick like everyone else.

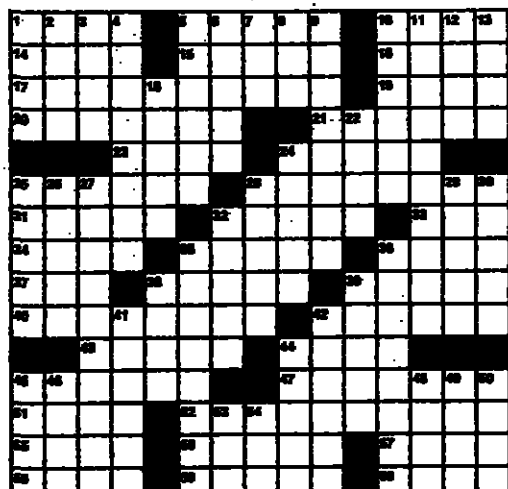
At rubber bridge, however, the outlook is unimpressive — your first concern should be to secure your contract should trumps break 4-1. Therefore, play a low heart from dummy to the first trick, ruff in hand and draw three rounds of trumps. When West turns up with four trumps, you can actually claim the contract.

Cash the ace-king of clubs and ace of diamonds. When the queen does not appear, simply collect West's aid by throwing him on lead with his winning trump. No matter what suit he returns, he must put you into dummy. On a diamond return, either your jack wins or you capture the queen and return to the table with the ten to take a diamond on a rounded-suit winner. And either a heart or a club return allows you to take two pitches on dummy's winners in those suits.

## THE Daily Crossword by Henry Satchard

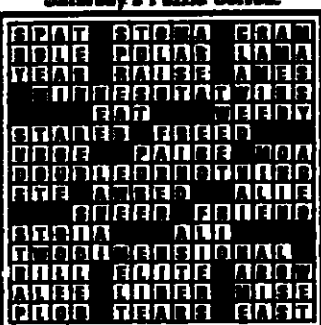
## ACROSS

- 1 Shipley figure
- 5 Best fit
- 10 Turn to slant
- 14 Turkish word
- 15 Stephen's class
- 16 Observation
- 17 Ingrained
- 19 Taj Mahal site
- 20 Enrichment
- 21 Gavel
- 23 Fr. holy women abbr.
- 24 Fabric
- 25 On the same side
- 26 Conduct
- 27 Satellite
- 28 Chastisement
- 29 Military org.
- 34 A Crosby
- 35 Unusually
- 36 Player's state abbr.
- 37 Unit of work
- 38 Building wing
- 39 Foreman
- 40 Recession
- 42 Blush
- 43 Under control
- 44 — Lisa
- 45 Tarry
- 47 One — (singly)
- 51 Puts
- 52 Brief
- 55 Count
- 56 Molester
- 57 Blebs
- 58 Conspired
- 59 Time — half
- 60 Devoted
- 61 It commences



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## Saturday's Puzzle Solvers:



- 1 Southern France
- 2 Arab port
- 3 Zulu nation
- 4 Grand
- 5 Ranked in a tourney
- 6 Intensive
- 7 Deserter
- 8 Consumed
- 9 Very pitch
- 10 Area
- 11 Overbearing
- 12 It, town
- 13 Help beat a habit
- 14 Brief
- 15 Howard and Ely
- 16 de Guesne
- 17 French verb
- 18 Far from brief
- 19 Jaded
- 20 Deane strongly
- 21 Satard
- 22 Outline a subscription
- 23 Sanctified
- 24 Calling
- 25 Comely
- 26 Johnnie
- 27 — code
- 41 Leander's land
- 42 Decayed
- 43 Osmund or Wilson
- 44 Moon goddess
- 45 Priy to
- 46 Land of Tugayev
- 47 Chow
- 48 Ma Feder
- 49 Sea
- 50 Kimoan cash

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## LOST

One Persian male cat behind the Royal Guest House, last seen on Sunday October 16th.

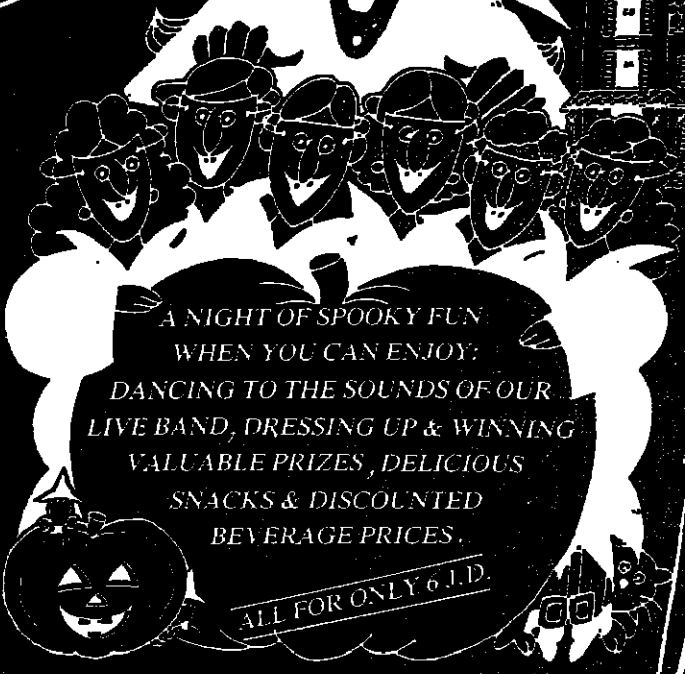
White with green eyes and black tip fur wearing brown leather collar and flea collar.

JD 200 reward given for return.

Please call 606751

## Halloween

THURSDAY NIGHT  
OCTOBER 27  
20th 8:00 - 12:00



A NIGHT OF SPOOKY FUN  
WHEN YOU CAN ENJOY:  
DANCING TO THE SOUNDS OF OUR  
LIVE BAND, DRESSING UP & WINNING  
VALUABLE PRIZES, DELICIOUS  
SNACKS & DISCOUNTED  
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ALL FOR ONLY 6 J.D.  
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TICKETS ARE LIMITED, SO HURRY & MAKE YOUR  
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Cinema Tel: 625155

## RAINBOW

Dustin Hoffman  
Tom Cruise  
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Cinema Tel: 677420

## CONCORD

Kirk Douglas, Pert Lancaster

in

TOUGH GUYS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

## PHILADELPHIA

Charles Bronson...

in

"The White Buffalo"

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

## NIJOUR

COCKTAIL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

## PLAZA

Dustin Hoffman  
Tom Cruise  
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 4:00, 6:45, 9:30



# Hungary declares a 'republic'

**BUDAPEST (R) —** Hungary buried 41 years of Communism and inaugurated Western-style democracy Monday by proclaiming itself a republic on the 33rd anniversary of the 1956 uprising crushed by Soviet tanks.

"This is a prelude to a new historical age," acting head of state Matyas Szarus said in a speech from the balcony of parliament to tens of thousands of cheering Hungarians.

"The Hungarian Republic is going to be an independent, democratic and legal state in which the values of bourgeois democracy and democratic socialism are expressed equally," he said.

The declaration followed a session of parliament last week which purged Hungary's constitution of its Stalinist elements.

The 1949 constitution defined Hungary as a Socialist People's Republic in which the working

class held supreme power and the Communist Party had a leading role.

The Communist Party, which took power by suppressing all its rivals in the late 1940s, is disbanded on Oct. 7 and reformed as a Western-style Socialist Party.

Hungary's first multi-party parliamentary elections since 1947 are due to take place by the middle of next year.

Szarus was speaking from the spot where Imre Nagy, who was hanged for treason in 1958 for his role as premier during the uprising, addressed crowds of rebels exactly 33 years before.

Only a year ago, Hungarian

police broke up peaceful attempts to commemorate the 1956 events, then branded officially a "counter-revolution."

Szarus linked the new republic to the aspirations for a "free, democratic Hungary," expressed in the 1956 uprising and the subsequent "National Independence Movement."

The uprising was smashed when Soviet tanks invaded on Nov. 4, 1956 after Nagy had formed a multi-party government and announced Hungarian neutrality.

In the fighting that followed 25,000 people died, 150,000 were injured and 200,000 people emigrated.

Alluding to the 1956 Soviet intervention, Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth said in a televised speech Sunday that Hungary did not have to fear defeat by a foreign power this time. "Our hands are not tied," he said.

Szarus drew catcalls when he said the new republic wanted to maintain Hungary's "undisturbed and balanced relations" with the Soviet Union. There was applause and cheers when relations with the United States were mentioned.

Nemeth has said his government draws on the ideas of Nagy whose body was exhumed from an unmarked grave this year and reburied with honour.

The laws passed by parliament last week lay the framework for multi-party elections by mid-1990 and although neutrality is not official policy, there is much talk of national independence and of achieving a similar status to neutral Austria and Finland.

Opposition groups are holding memorial events throughout the day at points around Budapest which were of significance during the uprising.

## Aquino: Guerrillas have been decimated

**MANILA, Philippines (AP) —** President Corason Aquino said Monday that Communist rebels have been "decimated" but military corruption and abuse of civilians threaten to undermine "the strings of victories."

In a related development, the mayor of a major city charged Monday that corrupt soldiers were behind recent kidnappings and called on Mrs. Aquino to purge the Philippine Constabulary Command in the central Philippines.

During a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the Department of National Defence, Mrs. Aquino claimed the armed forces was finally winning the 20-year war against the rebel New People's Army (NPA).

"For the first time in four years, there has been a substantial drop in the level of dissident violence in 1989," Mrs. Aquino said. "The leadership of the underground has been decimated, and intrigues and demoralisation have spread in enemy ranks."

She claimed the number of villages infiltrated by the NPA was declining but gave no figures. Mrs. Aquino also said public support for the military against the insurgents was increasing.

"Despite the strings of victories, I must caution all against two important dangers that can shake the integrity of this covenant between the soldier and the people," she said.

The specter of corruption and abuse of power still however over us, threatening to erode the healthy relations between the man in uniform and the civilian population," she said. "Also, I feel I must warn you against possible disregard for the welfare of the innocent caught in the cross-fire between the armed forces and that of the enemy."

Mrs. Aquino did not elaborate. But her remarks follow growing criticism from the senate and provincial governors about military involvement in major crimes.

Filipino and foreign human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have also criticised the government for failing to curb human rights abuses or to prosecute successfully soldiers accused of abusing civilians under the guise of pursuing the counter-insurgency campaign.

In a radio interview Monday, Rodolfo Gonzon, mayor of Iloilo about 300 kilometres south east of Manila, blamed the military and police for growing lawlessness.

"We have had 11 kidnappings (nationwide) in the past 19 months and they are all military connected," Gonzon said. "Many high officials should be transferred or eliminated from the service because they are the ones responsible for smuggling of arms here, smuggling, illegal gambling, rampant smuggling, kidnapping, murder and other cases."

## Zimbabwe stokes war words of with U.K.

**KUALA LUMPUR (R) —** Zimbabwe stoked a war of words with Britain over South Africa Monday as the Commonwealth summit turned to issues ranging from drugs to the world economy.

Australia and Canada assailed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she opened for the day, demanding she explain a British statement critical of an agreed Commonwealth stance on southern African policy.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, set to be host to the 49-nation group's 1991 summit in Harare, later said Thatcher was at debate opened for the day, demanding she explain a British statement critical of an agreed Commonwealth stance on southern African policy.

Thatcher refused to endorse four specific points in the Commonwealth paper on southern Africa, including a call for a tightening of financial sanctions against Pretoria.

Thatcher told reporters as she left the meeting: "The commonwealth came out last night on South Africa said quite clearly that Britain takes a different view. I spelled out that different view."

A close aide added: "We are amazed that the Commonwealth finds free speech so inconvenient. But as far as we are concerned, the matter is closed."

Hawke said the unprecedented British action was not the "way to do business", but added: "I don't think any useful purpose is served by taking it any further."

Mugabe suggested Thatcher had flouted the British tradition of fair play, but also said: "We are not offended by this at all."

agly accusing the British leader of completely reversing her position and torpedoing the joint Commonwealth stand.

He said the separate British statement was meant to do two things: "To tell the blacks in South Africa that Britain is a supporter of apartheid and tell the apostles of apartheid that Britain is still their friend."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad moved quickly to end the row in the conference chamber and the other protagonists adopted a more conciliatory tone outside.

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## What the butlers saw

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) —** Queen Elizabeth personally serves her husband Prince Philip tea every afternoon but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has time only to say "Hi, darling" and "bye, darling" to her husband, Denis. These and other rare glimpses of the private lives of the queen and Mrs. Thatcher appeared in interviews in the New Straits Times Monday with the butlers and chefs who served them during their stay in the Malaysian capital for the biennial summit meeting of Britain and its former colonies.

Edwin Le Prince, 32, butler to the queen, during her visit reported the British monarch was very attentive to Prince Philip and insisted she personally serve tea to him at 4:30 every afternoon. "We would have to lay the table and boil the water but she would cut the bread and mix his tea for him," Le Prince recounted.

The royal couple are early risers, and read the morning newspapers before having breakfast together. The queen has tea, toast and marmalade jam, while Prince Philip has fish. She brings her own Earl Grey tea and marmalade with her. Daniel Minny, 24, the Maître D' at Carcosa San Negrar, the official guest house where the couple stayed, reported that the queen never left any food on her plate. "The head chef at the guest house, Daniel Pellegrini, 32, after observing he had lost six kilograms in weight because of the tension of the job of cooking for royalty, revealed that the queen's physician advised on her menus, which had little red meat, lots of fish and fresh vegetables. The queen's favourite tipple is a gin and tonic before dinner, and Prince Philip likes Carlsberg beer. Mrs. Thatcher's butler, at the plush Shangri-La Hotel, Ron Yarnoff said the British prime minister's favourite drinks were white wine, gin and tonic and whisky soda. "She hardly has any time with her husband. It's literally hi, darling and bye, darling," but they always make an effort to do together," he said.

## U.S., France discuss arms

**PARIS (R) —** U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement Monday to discuss arms control and what Cheney called phenomenal changes in the Eastern Bloc.

U.S. officials said Cheney, starting a three-week tour of Western Europe and Australia, would assure Chevenement that Washington supported France's insistence on keeping its own nuclear arsenal despite progress in talks on reducing conventional forces and strategic nuclear arms.

Cheney cautioned the French and other European allies not to lower their military guard because Moscow had promised to

slash conventional forces facing them.

"We need to be vigilant on Eastern Europe because of the phenomenal change that is taking place in the world," he told Chevenement at a dinner on Sunday night.

Cheney, who has questioned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's ability to complete planned economic and political reforms, said Gorbachev's push to steps toward democracy in Hungary and Poland were spangled by military strength in the West as well as a failure of Communism.

Although France has cooperated more closely with NATO Atlantic Treaty Organisation

(NATO) military forces in recent years, Chevenement made clear last week that Paris has no intention of rejoining the 16-nation alliance's integrated military command structure which it left in 1966.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said Cheney wanted to visit Paris before attending a NATO nuclear planning group meeting in Portugal Tuesday and Wednesday.

"France is at the forefront of European defence and we value that contribution," said one official. France, which is modernising its short-range nuclear weapons, says it is the world's third nuclear power.

## Thousands evacuated after Soviet pipeline explosion

**MOSCOW (AP) —** Thousands of people living near a gas pipeline in western Siberia have been evacuated following an explosion and fire in a remote area, Soviet television reported.

In a report from Tobolsk, 1,600 kilometres south east of Moscow, the evening news programme Vremya said Sunday night that the rupture took place on a section of the same pipeline that exploded June 4, killing 607 people in a nearby town.

The report said the pipeline was under repair when the explosion occurred. There were no injuries or deaths reported in the blast in a remote, sparsely populated area.

Vremya said the blast happened when workers tested the line with water.

"When the pipe burst, not only water, but heavy steam which was left in the pipe exploded from the rupture," the report said.

The blast was seen by experts as a warning that other explosions may occur on the pipeline.

"Executive councils of the Tuva region were forced to evacuate thousands of people from the danger zone along the pipeline," the report said.

According to Vremya, it will be unsafe to resume pumping gas through the pipeline for at least two years.

"We believe that two years at least are needed to bring the pipeline into an operational state," chief Engineer V.N. Cherpunsky told Vremya. If the pipeline is reopened too quickly, he said, "the lives of thousands of people who live alongside the pipeline will be threatened."

The June explosion severely crippled the country's gas supply, officials said in July.

## Hong Kong, China agree on illegal immigrants

**HONG KONG (R) —** China said Monday it would resume accepting the return of its citizens found living illegally in Hong Kong, the first sign of thaw in recent frosty relations between the British colony and Peking.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) and the Hong Kong government said in a brief joint statement that China would again accept the return of illegal immigrants from Tuesday.

Peking suspended the routine daily handover on Oct. 8 in protest at Hong Kong's decision to allow dissident Chinese swimmer Yang Yang to flee to the United States.

"After discussions between the Hong Kong government and the Hong Kong branch of the New China News Agency, the two sides have reached agreement to restart the repatriation of illegal immigrants on Oct. 24," the statement said.

Under a series of agreements with China, Hong Kong routinely returns anyone who sneaks across the heavily guarded border looking for work or overstays their visa.

An estimated 900 illegal immigrants detained since the row, erupted are waiting in Hong Kong to be handed back.

The two sides reaffirm their undertakings of 1974, 1980 and 1982, on illegal immigrants and two-way permit holders and their determination to fulfil their commitment to the undertakings," the statement said.

China said Yang, ranked as the number two freestyle swimmer in the 1988 national team, should have been handed back when he appealed for asylum after overstaying his visa in August.

Yang, who said he had backed the student movement in China, was detained by Hong Kong authorities and later allowed to go to the United States.

Peking's furious reaction pushed ties with Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, to their lowest point for years.

China attacked Hong Kong and Britain, saying they allowed the colony to become a base of subversion against Peking and also moved a key naval dockyard without consultation.

"There's no doubt that China's recent outbursts against Hong Kong were a severe case of muscle-flexing. Peking wanted to make it quite clear who was in control," a senior Western diplomat said.

"Now they've made their point; they can afford to relent a little," he said.

A Chinese official, asked if the agreement meant Hong Kong had offered guarantees to Peking that there would be no more such cases, said only: "It is very clear from the statement."

## Art auctioned for \$131m

**NEW YORK (AP) —** The private art collection of the late chairman of the Campbell Soup Co. drew \$131 million at auction, the highest total ever for a single owner's collection, Sotheby's Auction House has said.

John T. Dorrance Jr.'s collection, sold in four sessions this week, included paintings by Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne as well as garden statues, French furniture and assorted porcelain, said Diana Brooks, president of the North American division of the British auction house. Brooks said the Dorrance collection "possessed strong sense of character which appealed to a wide spectrum of collectors." At the first session Wednesday, Woman With a Red Umbrella, by Henri Matisse sold for \$12.4 million, a record for the artist. That first session alone eclipsed the previous record for a single-owner auction. The previous record for a single owner's art was set last year when the collection of William Goetz, a Hollywood executive, sold for \$85 million. The Dorrance collection drew some unusually high prices for some unexpected items, said Matthew Weigman, a spokesman for Sotheby's. Two garden statues of lions, similar to those in front of the main branch of the New York Public Library, sold for \$66,000. They had been expected to draw about 10,000, Weigman said.



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega with Kuwaiti Sheikhs Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Sheikh Fahd Al Sabah during a recent visit. Ortega paid to Kuwait.

## Managua discusses rebel attacks

**MANAGUA (AP) —** President Daniel Ortega met in emergency session with his chief security officials after a weekend attack by U.S.-backed rebels in which 18 soldiers were killed, the government said.

The soldiers were ambushed on their way to register for Feb. 25 national elections and the Defence Ministry accused rebels of trying to disrupt voter registration.

Ortega met late Sunday with his brother, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge to consider measures against rebel attacks. It was not immediately clear what those might be.

The ambush late Saturday occurred near Cerro Del Mono, about 23 kilometres north of the capital.

The soldiers were armed "but it was a surprise attack, they fell into an ambush" and could not return fire, said Ronald Martinez, a Defence Ministry spokesman.

man at Matagalpa province, where the attack occurred.

The attack was part of a contra campaign to "disrupt the electoral process" the Defence Ministry said.

Sunday was the last day for Nicaragua's 1.3 million people of voting age to register.

Officials said government troops on Sunday also fought off rebels in Chontales province, 144 kilometres east of Managua. Lt. Marion Rodriguez said 15 rebels attacked the voter registration office, but there were no casualties.

Two other rebel attacks were reported elsewhere Sunday, but no one was reported killed or injured in those attacks either.

Nicaragua's Sandinista government and the contra rebels agreed on March 21 to suspend offensive operations, but talks aimed at a permanent end to their 7-year-old war are at a stalemate and there has been sporadic

fighting.

There was no immediate comment from the contras on Sunday's reports.

The elections come under a regional peace plan under which five Central American presidents agreed to disband the contras — by Dec. 8, in exchange, Ortega moved up the election date from 1991 and promised free balloting.

Last year, the United States cut off military aid to the contras, but Washington still gives them non-lethal aid.

On Saturday, President Bush signed a \$9 million aid package designed to support Nicaraguan opposition groups. The 14-party opposition coalition formed for the election has denied any connection to the contra attacks.

Both the Bush administration and contra leaders want to maintain the rebels as a fighting force until the election to make sure Ortega fulfils his pledge.

## Wearing of headscarf in French school explodes into national issue

**PARIS (AP) —** The decision of three North African girls to wear head covering to junior high school classes has exploded into an intense national debate over religion in public schools.

At issue is the secularity of education, enshrined in French law since the official separation of the church and the state in this largely Roman Catholic country in 1905, and whether wearing the "hijab" covering hair, ears and neck amounts to proselytism.

About 400 people shouting "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) demonstrated in Paris Sunday in favour of wearing the hijab. The demonstration was called by the Islamic Association of France and the Voice of Islam, which organised the demonstrations a few months ago against the Salman Rushdie novel the Satanic Verses.

Women wearing scarves carried banners reading in Arabic and French, "the hijab is our honour." The two groups, however, represent only a minority of Muslims in France.

The uproar began in early October at Creil, 60 kilometres north of Paris, when Leila Achahoun, 15, her sister Fatima, 14, and their friend Samira, 14, all of Tunisian origin, were told by the principal they could not wear the hijab to school.

The girls demurred. The debate grew. Negotiations started. Similar cases sprang up in Marseille, Avignon and Montpellier. A compromise was reached at Creil where the girls were

allowed to wear hijabs to school, but not in class. Again they demurred.

Religious leaders — Muslim, Jewish and Christian — seemed to see little harm in the wearing of the hijab. School and union leaders came down soundly on the side of keeping all signs of religion out of schools, saying secularism is one of the pillars of French democracy. Political leaders waffled.

The most hysterical came from Bernard Antony of the extreme right National Front. He said wearing of the hijab was "the beginning of the Lebanonisation of France because it is obvious that if we continue to allow hundreds of thousands of Muslims to enter France we cannot indefinitely deprive them of their customs, their rites, and when they become the majority, they will not hesitate to apply the Sharia (Islamic Law)."

Islam is the second-largest religion in France with 2.5 million adherents.

Ernest Chemier, principal of the Gabriel Havez Junior High School in Creil where it all began says he is only doing his job applying French regulations against religion in schools.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Extreme right makes gains in Stuttgart

**FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) —** The extreme rightist Republican Party won city council seats in Stuttgart and other key areas of West Germany's richest state, in the latest in a string of election successes this year, officials said Monday. The Republicans' victories began in January, when the party won 11 of the 138 seats in the West Berlin legislature. The party since then has gained city council seats in other major cities, including Cologne, Dortmund and Dusseldorf, as well as in parts of Hesse state. The Republicans' latest gains are expected to put further pressure on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which suffered heavy losses in Sunday's voting in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

### 6 die in Ecuador air crash

**GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) —** An Ecuadorian Air Force jet doing stunt manoeuvres at an air show crashed into a residential neighbourhood, killing five people on the ground and the pilot, an airport spokesman said. The jet fighter, said to be an Israeli-built Kfir craft, slammed into a two-storey apartment complex. Witnesses said the pilot was unable to recover from an inverted loop before hitting the ground. Flames from the impact engulfed five adjoining structures, the eyewitnesses said. After firemen put out the fire, rescue crews removed five bodies from the ruins of the buildings. The pilot's body was found strapped into the cockpit of the air force plane, the witnesses said.

### 11 bodies block traffic in Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO (R) —** The bodies of 11 young men shot dead by suspected pro-government vigilantes blocked traffic in central Sri Lanka Monday in the latest wave of killings that have claimed at least 29 lives in past 24 hours, military sources and residents said. They said the bodies were spread across a main road nine kilometres west of Kandy in the central hill province. "Vehicles could not move for a few minutes, delaying schoolchildren and office workers," a Kandy resident said by telephone. The bodies were later removed by the police. Two other bodies were found in the Kandy area. One bore a note written in blood reading: "This is a punishment for giving information to the police."

### 4 hurt when bombs wreck cars in Greece

**ATHENS, Greece (R) —** Four Greeks were slightly wounded when three bombs blew up parked cars belonging to Americans working at the U.S. Air Force Hellinikon Base in the Athens suburb of Glyfada, police said. The bombs went off at 2150 local time in different parts of Glyfada where many foreign military and diplomatic officials live.

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	08	17	63 Rain
ATHENS	10	20	21 70 Clear
BANGKOK	24	29	34 Clear
BANGKOK	22	32	30 Clear
Buenos Aires	17	22	78 Clear
Cairo	16	21	82 Clear
CHICAGO	01	18	84 Clear
COPENHAGEN	12	24	17 85 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	07	25	23 Clear
GENOVA	08	25	77 Clear
HONG KONG	23	32	81 Clear
ISTANBUL	10	20	82 Clear
LONDON	14	17	78 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	17	23	74 Rain
MADRID	07	24	75 Clear
MEXICO	23	33	102 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	20	40 Rain
MOSCOW	09	22	80 Clear
NEW DELHI	17	32	30 Clear
NEW YORK	08	13	59 Clear
PARIS	14	25	77 Clear
ROME	18	22	72 Clear
STONY	18	22	72 Clear
TOKYO	14	27	75 Clear
WENNA	08	25	75 Clear